

"We understand that this is a tall order," she said. "We understand that the company is a small business owner in northeast Ohio with a product that works well to treat ice and snow on our roads, and we appreciate the need for safe car travel throughout the state. We understand that there are competing public health priorities and that de-icing roads is essential to keep our communities safe and functioning throughout the winter months." "The OEC Action Fund understands that you also may prioritize the public safety goal of adding another deicing product to the market over the public safety goal of minimizing radiological and heavy metal content that is brought to the surface through resource extraction."

She also called on lawmakers to have the manufacturer demonstrate that the product is safe and is not radioactive.

"While we have heard about the efficacy of the product to treat ice and snow, we have not yet seen the lab analyses to demonstrate that there are not NORM or heavy metals present in the product," Ms. Houston added.

Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) asked whether the group is opposed to the current use of the product on some roads across the state.

Ms. Houston acknowledged that the product is being used, but said the authorization came from a divisional order rather than the enactment of law. She said passage of a bill could lead to much wider use, including sales for personal use.

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) asked how long the product has been in use in Ohio.

Ms. Houston said it dates to about 2004, when an order was issued by the chief of the Division of Oil & Gas. She told Mr. Leland she does not have any data about the condition of soil near where the product has been used, but said DNR may have that information.

Bill Rish of ToxStrategies lent support for the bill, telling the panel that Nature's Own and Duck Creek Energy asked him to consider whether the use of AquaSalina for deicing roads present significant ecological or health risks.

He said his research has shown that the product will not create unacceptable ecological or human health risks and has impacts that are much lower than the use of rock salt.

"I found that laboratory data demonstrate that the use of AquaSalina will not result in exceeding Ohio surface water criteria for protection of aquatic species or protection for agricultural use of surface water for any of the substances present in the product," he said. "I also found that laboratory data for the content of AquaSalina, when compared to my published study, show that AquaSalina will not result in risk to drinking water, even if an adult or child drinks from a shallow well near the location that AquaSalina is applied. In fact, I expect that this drinking water pathway is unlikely to exist."

That process included a review of third-party and independent certification agencies, as well as academic institutions and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, he said, adding that the Pennsylvania-style brine has much higher radiological levels than AquaSalina.

Responding to questions, Mr. Rish said studies have shown that even a person who would be most exposed to the product from all potential channels would likely only reach 1/100th of a what would be considered a maximum acceptable level.

Rebecca Clutter of NARO Appalachia in written testimony questioned whether the panel has considered mineral owners as part of the debate on the bill, noting that the state itself is a large-scale mineral owner.

"On the surface, this issue is about a single corporation seeking to use recycled brine for use in road applications," she said. "The bigger issue is that the filtered brine kicks back Rare Earth Elements (RRE) from privately owned mineral sources. Specifically we are seeing a high degree of interest regarding Lithium filtered from not only brine, but from coal ponds as well."

"The responsibility to protect private property rights regarding mineral assets inclusive of REE's belongs to all of you," she said. "Our ask is that should brine be listed as a commodity, that it also be looked at from the perspective of how the mineral owner, including the State of Ohio, would be properly compensated and that discussions on this include mineral owners and not simply those tied to industry."

Adam Rissien of the Ohio Sierra Club offered written opponent testimony, saying the bill could lead to the contamination of rivers, streams and lakes.

He said the bill includes language that shows an intent to make brine waste safe for commercial use, but doesn't include direction that could prevent environmental- or health-related issues.

Mr. Rissien said the Ohio Department of Transportation doesn't have testing protocols or a process to ensure the safety of brine waste products, and isn't the right agency to protect natural resources or health.

Processed brine can continue to include heavy materials and radiologicals that could create unnecessary environmental risks, and said the bill doesn't include anything that ensures the safety of processed brine, he wrote. He also raised concerns about provisions that he said "egregiously" limit the authority of state officials to establish rules or additional requirements regarding the substance.

Robbin Rogers of Medina County Together also submitted written opponent testimony.

She said the oil and gas industry has worked to block environmental and health protections. "Today you have an opportunity to take one step-not even a bold step against the fossil fuel industry-but an important step nonetheless," she said. "And it involves supporting a legislature that bucked the national trend and implemented changes to regulations concerning transporting, dispersing, and labeling of products originating or manufactured from fossil fuel brine."

HB 422 **WATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS (Ginter, T., Rogers, J.)** To govern acquisitions of municipal water-works and sewage disposal system companies by certain larger nonmunicipal water-works or sewage disposal system companies. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)**

Daniel Shields, director of the analytical services department at the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, presented written opponent testimony.

"This concern includes that the bill would undermine the long-time protection of ratemaking statutes that Ohio utility consumers should not pay rates based on more than the original cost of acquiring utility plant (assets)," he said. "The use of original cost for ratemaking is fair

to utilities and to consumers, but the bill would redefine original cost in a way that can lead to higher rates for consumers."

Subscribers please note: Testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under January 23.

Ways & Means

HB 186

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES (Rogers, J., Scherer, G.) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow an individual obtaining a post-secondary degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

"The provision granting deductions for credentials earned by students will put money back in the pockets of Ohioans," said Daniel Palmer, chief justice of Wright State University's Student Government Association and executive director of the Ohio Student Government Association.

Mr. Palmer said he is concerned about how college students will be claimed as dependents and brought New Jersey's "Dependents Attending Colleges Exemption" to the committee's attention.

He recommended the committee consider including a similar exemption into the bill, which would grant taxpayers a \$1,000 flat deduction that pays at least one half of the "tuition and maintenance costs for a dependent full-time student under age 22," if certain requirements are met.

Mr. Palmer said the exemption saved New Jersey taxpayers \$10.5 million in 2017.

Rep. Blessing asked how this proposal could reduce costs in the long run for college students. If Ohio invests in this matter, the state's institutions will become more marketable which will pay off in the long run, Mr. Palmer said.

Morris W. Beverage Jr., president of Lakeland Community College said in written testimony that the proposal offers relief to Ohio graduates.

"The proposal to adjust the taxable income of recent graduates relative to their out of pocket Qualified Higher Education Expenses is a welcome consideration that recognizes the value of a student and family's investment in education and training, recognizing their struggles, and recognizing their desire to increase their ability to participate in and contribute to workforces and economic development in our state," Mr. Beverage said in testimony.

In written testimony, Dave Wiles, president of CT Consultants, said the bill could help the company compete by expanding its base with high quality graduates in Ohio.

"I strongly believe that any incentive that can enhance the benefits of a post-secondary education, including any financial assistance to help graduates with their responsibilities towards repayment of their school loans, is not only good for our local, state and federal governments, but it is in the student's best interests towards becoming independent and responsible tax-paying citizens," Edward Brown, CFO and owner of the Brown Aveda Institutes, Casal Aveda Institute, and Ladies and Gentlemen Salon and Spas, said in written testimony.

COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

"Eliminating the sales tax on textbooks will make the cost of obtaining a higher education more affordable, obtainable, and prove to be beneficial to the hundreds and thousands of students in Ohio," James Curtis, a student at Wright State University told the committee. According to the College Board, the annual cost of books and materials for students is \$1,168 and this cost is expected to grow if the textbook inflation rate continues, Mr. Curtis said.

Numerous polls have revealed the negative impact financial burdens, including rising textbook prices, can have on education, he explained.

Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) asked if the lower sales tax would raise demand and therefore the price of textbooks, resulting a situation where textbook prices remain high. Mr. Curtis replied that if demand increases, supply would follow.

Mr. Curtis told **Rep. Michael Henne** (R-Clayton) that increasing the use of online materials and encouraging faculty to be lenient on which editions of textbooks are required would also help to ease the financial burden of textbooks for students.

Mr. Curtis told **Rep. Craig Riedel** (R-Defiance) that the exemption would not apply to high schools that buy textbooks for College Credit Plus programs.

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) asked if any student groups had appealed to publishers of these textbooks to inquire about the rising costs. There have been many initiatives and petitions to try to reach the publishers to little or no effect, Mr. Curtis replied.

In October, the Ohio Faculty Council voted on a resolution which established a set of approaches to reduce textbook costs for students in the state of Ohio, Dan Krane professor of biological sciences at Wright State University and chair of the Ohio Faculty Council, told the committee.

If fully implemented, the proposal would result in a savings of \$300 million annually, Mr. Krane said.

Many states already exempt textbook sales from their sales tax, giving those states a competitive advantage when trying to recruit students, he said.

Mr. Krane said he does not believe implementing a sales tax exemption would lead faculty members to choose textbooks that are not exempt for reasons regarding profit.

He told Rep. Blessing it is hard to tell how high the cost of textbooks would be if the states mentioned had not implemented sales tax exemptions. However, the sales tax exemption is third on the faculty council's list of initiatives to lower textbook costs and other proposals may be more impactful.

Mr. Krane said he is concerned about Ohio being at a competitive disadvantage to other state institutions for recruitment purposes, not necessarily for cross-border tax avoidance strategies.

He told Rep. Merrin that the exemption applies to any book required by a collegiate course syllabus in the state of Ohio. For companies like Amazon, there would need to be a mechanism to exempt the sales tax, he added.

LSC noted that if a student purchases a book online, the bill requires the student to provide the company with their address, the title of the academic course, name and address of the institution and the student's university identification card number, among other information.

(LSC Analysis)

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Twp.) asked how it would be determined if a book is a required textbook. LSC noted that the bill restricts the exemption to books assigned by a course syllabus.

Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) asked how the bill would work to help students over time, assuming textbook price inflation continues.

Governor Kasich inspired the faculty council's set of proposals to ease the financial burden on college students, Mr. Krane said.

"The textbook industry is a broken business model," Mr. Krane told the committee. To address the situation involving publishers and used booksellers, the faculty council recommends an "inclusive access" strategy, which calls for institutions to negotiate the price of books with publishers rather than leaving this to the students, he explained.

Rep. Patmon said he is concerned that there is no mechanism to prevent the increasing price inflation. Mr. Krane said he does not believe the sales tax exemption will fully address the problem, but the "inclusive access" provision of the faculty council's approach could.

Rep. Schaffer asked if the professor knew who benefits from the increasing textbook costs. Members of university faculty are not the leading beneficiaries, Mr. Krane explained as the author of a textbook himself. The publishers and the used booksellers are the "culprits," he added.

In response to Rep. Merrin's statement that professors have a tremendous power in choosing the latest and most expensive edition of textbooks, Mr. Krane replied that in the interest of academic freedom he does not believe this right should be infringed upon. However, as a professor he has experienced the games publishers play by only including online access codes on the latest editions, which contain necessary tools for the course, Mr. Krane added.

The faculty council is working diligently to find an incentive to encourage faculty to develop alternatives to expensive books, he told the committee.

Rep. Schaffer asked if there are anti-trust concerns in situations where faculty may ban together with publishers. Mr. Krane said it would be more likely to see this from the academic institutions. Nonetheless, the inclusive access strategy has been successful in Indiana and publishers have been open to the method, he explained.

HB 351

MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)**

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Chapters Military Officers Association, Colonel John McCoy said in written testimony that the proposal to delete the terms "armed forces" and replace it with "uniformed services" from the code would have no fiscal impact to the state.

The change would extend benefits to Public Health Services and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which support other military services,

are subject to deployments, and react to national emergencies among other duties, Mr. McCoy said in testimony.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under Jan. 23.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 392 **APIARY DAMAGES** (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) voted against the measure.

HB 433 **VETERINARY EDUCATION** (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kelly (D-Cincinnati) said her bill is a common sense approach to enable veterinarians in Ohio to earn continuing education credit by performing free spaying and neutering services at a county humane society, dog pound or nonprofit.

For every hour spent providing these services, veterinarians would receive one-half hour credit of continuing education towards the annual requirement, she explained. Participating veterinarians could receive up to two hours of credit per renewal.

The goal of the bill is to responsibly curb the issue of pet overpopulation, Rep. Kelly said. The Humane Society of the United States successfully lobbied for similar bill in the state of New York in 2016, she added.

Rep. Kelly told Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) that the bill would not change the number of hours required for continuing education, rather it provides veterinarians the option to apply time spent volunteering to the credits.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired if there was a need for the incentive. Co-Sponsor Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) said the goal of the bill is to address the problem of overpopulated animal shelters while providing veterinarians with an incentive to volunteer their time rather than fulfilling their continuing education credits at a luxurious conference.

Many veterinarians are already donating their time to provide free spaying and neutering services, Rep. Kelly told the committee. This bill provides a practical incentive to continue to do so.

HB 444 **FOOD OPERATION FEES** (Sweeney, M.) To require a seasonal food service operation license fee to be one-half of the license fee for a food service operation that is not a seasonal food service operation. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Martin Sweeney (D-Cleveland) said his bill will allow for a separate food license for half of the year, in addition to the standard year-long operation license to accommodate seasonal food businesses.

"This legislation will allow these businesses to save a little bit of money on their license, which in turn, could be used to hire additional seasonal help," Rep. Sweeney said. "As the seasonal help at these types of businesses are often high school students, this will help instill a strong work ethic in even more young Ohioans throughout the state."

Rep. Sweeney told Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) that a food truck entity could apply for the seasonal license if it operated for less than six months out of the year.

Rep. Brinkman said he liked the idea of a seasonal operating license and wondered if it could apply to all types of seasonal businesses including entities like golf courses and hockey rinks.

The sponsor replied that the mentioned entities do not need to apply for a yearly license, but that he is open to the committee's feedback and suggestions.

Rep. Sweeney told Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) that if a golf course has a seasonal food business, then that food business could apply for a seasonal permit.

Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) asked if the sponsor had considered the impacts on a county with a high density of seasonal workers. Rep. Sweeney replied that he had not but would work closely with the committee and representatives from those areas to address that issue.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired how the funds would be supplemented with some revenue streams being cut in half. Rep. Sweeney replied that though the revenue stream would be eliminated, the change would have a minimal impact on the general fund of most counties to the great benefit of small, seasonal businesses.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies can be found on the committee website under Jan. 23.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**); 9th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**); 9th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 410 **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Seitz, B., Butler, J.) To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance

deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Traffic safety activist Sharon Montgomery raised questions about the use of traffic cameras in interested party testimony.

One problem with red-light cameras is how they enforce legal right turns at red lights, she said. One solution is to eliminate the option at intersections with cameras.

The bill could solve procedural issues regarding traffic cameras by ensuring they go through the court system, she said.

Ms. Montgomery also raised questions about the revenue motive behind traffic cameras. She asked if the increased safety provided by the cameras balanced the revenue generated by them.

"What evidence is there that municipalities have installed cameras for revenue only?" she asked. "How do we determine motive? Why is it not okay to make money while also doing something good?"

Ms. Montgomery also cited evidence that red-light cameras reduce T-bone crashes but increase rear-end crashes, and said roundabouts have also been implemented to the same effect.

She suggested the legislature work to ensure cameras don't penalize legal actions and fix procedures for dealing with tickets, but that cities not be penalized for efforts to improve safety and generate revenue.

"Revenue challenges already exist for many, if not most, local governments," she said. "They have been asked to 'do more with less' and not to make up already existing reductions in state funding by increasing local taxes."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) asked Ms. Montgomery if municipalities were using revenue from traffic cameras on safety issues.

Ms. Montgomery said she was aware that the bill would require money to be spent on safety. Local governments, compared to the state, are often best positioned to ensure money is used effectively, she said.

Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, wrote in opposition to the bill, saying it would create unnecessary burdens for municipalities in enforcing local safety regulations.

"The bill strips cities and villages of their right to use administrative hearings for civil citation issuance via traffic camera, which is an effective and financially-responsible means of providing a hearing process - particularly for Ohio's small villages, which are often understaffed and financially strained," he wrote.

The bill also re-litigates an issue already decided by the Ohio Supreme Court, Mr. Scarrett said.

A major concern he cited was that it would require municipalities to file an annual report with the tax commissioner and the municipality's local government fund disbursement would be reduced accordingly.

"Despite the Constitutional right municipalities have to operate traffic cameras, this bill seeks to punish those municipalities who use that right by further depleting the revenues they need to ensure safety and provide local services," he said.

HB 430 **ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION** (Schaffer, T.) To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 451 **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor **Rep. Wes Retherford** (R-Hamilton) said the bill is designed to protect victims in sexually oriented crimes, such as voyeurism, from having images submitted as evidence in a court case released as a public record.

"Ohio is a very open and transparent state and we have some of the most transparent public records laws in the country," he said. "Government transparency is key to an effective republic. However, ascertaining these photos, videos, images, etc. would have no effect on ensuring public protection through open records laws, instead would just lead to the potential of having an already violated individual become victimized again, when they should be focused on rebuilding in the aftermath."

The bill came from a conversation with police in Hamilton, who raised concerns that they would have to release compromising images if such records were requested.

"While this has not been, to the best of my knowledge, an issue yet, I believe that the proper thing for the General Assembly to do is to take a proactive approach to this issue," Rep. Retherford said. "Why should we wait for this to happen before we respond?"

HB 462 **HOSPITAL CLOSINGS** (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Small Cell Wireless: Sponsor **Rep. Sarah LaTourette** (R-Chagrin Falls) testified in an informal hearing on a bill (**HB 478**) introduced Tuesday that deals with small cell wireless technology.

The technology - low-powered antennas attached to streetlights and poles that help upgrade wireless networks - was the subject of controversy when lawmakers included language in a bill last session (SB331, 131st General Assembly) allowing communication companies to install the antennas in municipal rights-of-way.

Municipalities filed lawsuits against the provision and courts found the law violated the Ohio Constitution's single subject rule. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2017)

"Rather than merely passing the same language as a standalone bill, we asked the wireless industry and the municipalities to see if they could resolve their differences, so we can pass a

law that will remove the uncertainty caused by the litigation and spur the investment and innovation as was originally intended," Rep. LaTourette said.

The bill creates uniform fees - a \$250 application fee for request and \$200 annual charge to attach to a municipally owned or controlled pole - and a process for obtaining permits. It also lays out approaches for municipalities to protect the aesthetic character of the right-of-way.

(LSC analysis)

Rep. LaTourette, who is sponsoring the bill alongside **Rep. Ryan Smith** (R-Bidwell), said the language stems from negotiations over the past three months with municipal officials, city engineers and representatives of the wireless industry.

"This was truly a collaborative effort and the participants should be commended for not only their hard work but also their willingness to negotiate a solution," she said. "The bill before you balances the industry's need to deploy small cells in a timely manner with municipalities' legitimate interest in protecting the aesthetic character of the public way."

Criminal Justice

HB 349 **POLICE ANIMALS (LaTourette, S.)** To increase the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse and to include search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)**

Before hearing testimony, the panel accepted a **substitute bill** offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) to restore existing penalties for assault on a police animal and to set the same penalties for assault on search and rescue animals. **(Comp doc)**

In proponent testimony, Dr. Robert Davis said search and rescue dogs and horses oftentimes encounter the same types of interference as experienced by police dogs and horses.

"Sometimes SAR teams enter private property either unknowingly or accompanied by law enforcement as part of the investigation," he said. "Although distinguishably marked, SAR animals may be subject to various actions by hostile property owners. It may also be the case that the subject of the search was not initially known to be a criminal actor and, when the SAR dog or horse makes contact with the subject, there is potential for harm."

Alice Ault of Miami Valley Mounted Search and Rescue said in proponent testimony that attacks on SAR animals have a high probability of resulting in serious injuries to humans.

"Injury occurs to the equestrian as the result of the equine falling onto the equestrian after it has been violently attacked," she said "This is one of the reasons horsemanship has been determined to be the most dangerous sport in the sports world. Some SAR equine can weigh more than twelve hundred pounds. Because of this, an equine falling onto a rider, as the result of a violent attack, can result in a multitude of traumatic injuries; the most serious, being paralysis or death."

Janelle Hideg of the Midwest K9 Search Unit also provided proponent testimony.

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Jerry Whaley of the Buckeye Emergency Response Training School.

HB 405 **COUNTERFEITING (Perales, R.)** To create the offense of counterfeiting and to include counterfeiting within the definition of "corrupt activity" under the

Corrupt Activities Law. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

The bill was amended by Rep. Rezabek to clarify that someone in possession of five or more access devices faces up to a third-degree felony charge.

HB 409 **VETERAN TREATMENT (Butler, J., Perales, R.)** To permit courts to create veterans treatment courts and to allow courts to divert certain criminal defendants to participate in veterans treatment court. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge Dennis Adkins said the need for the legislation has drastically increased since Sept. 11, 2001.

During the War on Terror, he said, some veterans have been deployed overseas as many as nine times.

"Some are changed more than others. Some suffer from serious problems," Judge Adkins said.

Judge Adkins created a veterans' treatment court in 2013. He said it has proven to be successful with a lower recidivism rate than other specialized dockets.

"The numbers speak for themselves. We have been very successful," he said.

HB 439 **BAIL DETERMINATIONS (Dever, J., Ginter, T.)** To require courts to use the results of a validated risk assessment tool in bail determinations; to allow nonmonetary bail to be set; to require courts to collect certain data on bail, pretrial release, and sentencing; and to require the state Criminal Sentencing Commission to create a list of validated risk assessment tools and monitor the policies and procedures of courts in setting bail and utilizing pretrial supervision services. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent & interested party)

HB 455 **DRUG TRAFFICKING (Wiggam, S.)** To provide that in determining the amount of cocaine for trafficking offenses, it also includes a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing cocaine, to increase penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses, and to name this act the Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Under the measure, individuals charged with trafficking heroin, fentanyl, cocaine or other Scheduled I or II drugs would be charged with at least a third-degree felony that includes mandatory prison time.

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear of the law, and Ohio will draw a clear distinction in criminal penalties between trafficking and simply using illegal drugs," **Rep. Scott Wiggam** (R-Wooster) said in sponsor testimony.

Rep. Wiggam said that since 2012, Ohio has reduced the incarceration of drug traffickers by 4%, while at the same time, unintentional overdose deaths have increased by 212%.

"We are in a battle for the future of Ohio," he said. "Without deterring drugs from entering and being produced in the state, we are failing those who are currently addicted, and we are jeopardizing our state's future."

Rep. Rezabek questioned the impact the bill would have on the state's already overcrowded prison system, adding he has heard the figure could be as many as 8,000 beds - the equivalent of three maximum security prisons.

Rep. Wiggam disputed the figure, saying the deterrence impact could lead to a much smaller impact.

Rep. Rezabek also questioned whether the bill addresses the definition of trafficking, noting that some users carry scales to ensure that they are not being ripped off when purchasing drugs.

Rep. Wiggam said the bill currently does not address that issue, but he would be open to looking further into the matter.

HB 457 **DRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.)** To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said the legislation was spurred by Scottie Childers, who failed a drug test during a probation check-in and died of an overdose four hours later.

"Scottie's mother, Linda Chambers, was shocked that her son was able to walk out after testing positive. In this case, had Scottie been sent to jail, it would have saved his life," he said in sponsor testimony. "This bill will help protect and save the lives of individuals afflicted with substance abuse."

The bill would require individuals subject to community control or parole sanctions to be immediately sent to jail or a treatment facility if they test positive for heroin, fentanyl or carfentanil.

"I completely agree that those struggling with substance abuse should be treated as addicts who need treatment, and not as criminals. However, in current reality, we simply do not have enough residential treatment facilities for those who need it," he said.

"While we in the General Assembly must address that issue, we also must face where we are today in Ohio and the challenges that we are up against. While we are working on getting more treatment facilities, there has to be somewhere for individuals afflicted with substance abuse to go, and jail is the safest place for them."

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) questioned why cocaine is not included in the bill.

Rep. Antani said he was trying to narrowly tailor the bill to lessen the impact on county jails. He added that the original charge has to have involved one of the drugs named in the bill.

HB 461 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Fedor, T., Galonski, T.)** To require a juvenile court to hold a delinquency complaint in abeyance if the court has reason to believe that the act charged might be prostitution related or that the child might be a victim of human trafficking and to provide that the same elements for the offense of trafficking in persons that apply to a victim under the age of sixteen also apply to a victim who is age sixteen or seventeen. **(SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

The bill was pulled from the agenda at the sponsor's request.

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 23.
Education & Career Readiness

HB 224 **SCHOOL FOODS (Ingram, C.)** To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging.
(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent & Interested party)

Rachel Tilford, food service director of Little Miami Schools and legislative chairperson for the School Nutrition Association of Ohio, said allowing food-sharing tables can benefit students who are food insecure.

However, the Department of Health currently requires any food remaining on sharing tables at the end of the day to be discarded, even if proper procedures are in place to safely store the food and keep it at proper temperatures.

Having to throw that food away results in about \$3,000 of waste annually in her district of 5,000 students alone, Ms. Tilford said.

"It is difficult to throw perfect good food in a garbage can. Try opening your refrigerator and tossing several dollars' worth of food into the trash," she said. "Staff have expressed concern that if people in our conservative community ever witnesses such waste that our department would be viewed negatively for wasting taxpayers' money and probably wind up as a scandalous media story."

She told Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) that many schools face shortfalls in their food service budgets and use money from the general fund used for educational purposes to provide lunches.

While schools lose lunch profits on calamity days, they typically don't lose product because district food service workers can go to schools and freeze any items that won't keep while school is called off, Ms. Tilford said in response to a question from **Rep. Dan Ramos** (D-Lorain).

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) questioned how schools keep cold items such as milk and yogurt at a safe temperature after they've been served. The witness said students typically don't have the items on their lunch trays for more than 15 minutes and then they're placed in insulated or temperature controlled storage that's monitored by a thermometer.

Jessica Shelly, food service director for Cincinnati Public Schools, also submitted written testimony in support of the bill. She said the school throws out an estimated \$500,000 in products each year that are paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

HB 438 **ESC BOARDS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)** To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Joint sponsor, **Rep. Steve Hambley** (R-Brunswick) said the bill aims to "increase member schools' participation in ESC governance and return choice to school districts whose hands were tied under previous law changes.

The measure allows the governing board of any single county ESC to add appointed members who represent client school districts of the service center that are not otherwise represented on the board, he said. Multi-county ESCs already have this ability. It also permits a local school district to sever its territory from one ESC and annex that territory to an adjacent ESC under certain conditions, joint sponsor **Rep. Darrell Kick** (R-Loudonville) said.

"Initial indications are that the only affected school districts would be Black River Local School District, and the five school districts in Sandusky County," he said, noting that the provision is permissive.

Responding to questions from the committee, Rep. Hambley said the Ohio Educational Service Center Association is supportive of the bill, which wouldn't allow appointed members to outnumber elected officials on boards.

Currently in the Black River Local School District, residents elect board members to an ESC they don't receive services from, which is what the bill is attempting to remedy, he said.

HB 442 **SCHOOL ATHLETICS (Antani, N.)** To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Students who come to America on F-1 visas don't get a complete high school experience because they're currently not allowed to play sports, sponsoring Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said.

"The Ohio High School Athletic Association and its members - around 85% of which are public high schools, paid for by taxpayers - arbitrarily decided several years ago that some international students, like exchange students who are here for a year on a J-1 visa, may play sports, but others, who may be here for four years on an F-1 visa, may not participate unless they meet specific criteria that are not applicable to the vast majority of students who receive an F-1 visa," he said.

He pointed to a 2015 comment from the OHSSA commissioner, who said that sports teach students life lessons, such as teamwork and commitment.

"Why would we want to deny a segment of students attending high school in Ohio from having these valuable experiences, just because of where they were born and the type of visa they have to legally attend school here?" Rep. Antani asked. "It is not something that our state government should let happen, especially when such rules are made by our public schools."

Rep. Ramos and Rep. Patterson raised concerns about recruiting athletes if the bill were to be approved.

"There has been concern that it's possible that students like this might congregate, some might use the term recruitment, in some particular schools and thus instead of a level playing field...it makes it harder for schools to compete," Rep. Patterson said.

Rep. Antani said it doesn't seem likely that schools would attempt to recruit students and there are OSHAA penalties in place for those that are caught doing so.

He suggested that private schools would only accept individuals who meet certain academic standards, which would make recruiting even more difficult.

By all accounts, students with J-1 visas, who are typically short-term foreign exchange students, aren't currently recruited despite being permitted to play OSHAA sports, Rep. Antani added.

HCR 11 **EDUCATION PLAN (Gavarone, T.)** To approve Ohio's state education plan for implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Public Utilities

HB 143 **ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.)** To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Robert Sprague's bill would preserve the previously-granted exemption of self-generators from the kilowatt-hour tax when it comes to power distribution, according to the sponsor.

The bill, he argued, is necessary to ensure exemptions spelled out in a 2001 law are properly applied by the Ohio Department of Taxation. That bill (SB3, 123rd General Assembly) exempted self-generators from the tax but the sponsor said that in recent years, ODT has begun levying the tax on some entities that should qualify as self-generators.

"This specific issue has to do with the interpretation of language regarding the tax on the distribution of energy over the grid," he said. "Since 'self-generator' is not specifically defined under Ohio's tax code, the Ohio Department of Taxation is treating certain entities that fit under the Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.01 definition of a 'self-generator' as electric distribution companies."

A substitute version of the bill is forthcoming after continued talks with ODT and other parties, Rep. Sprague (R-Findlay) said.

"My hope is we will soon reach a consensus on the language issues, but, due to certain views on the original principle of the exemption, there will still be opposition," Rep. Sprague said. "My intention was and is not to address the principle of whether the exemption is right or wrong; it is to clarify the intentions of Senate Bill 3 from the 123rd General Assembly."

The sponsor told **Rep. Rick Perales** (R-Beavercreek) that "a lot of resistance" has been aired in interested party meetings over whether justification for the exemptions exists. "We're really not going to address that particular issue of the exemption," he said of the philosophical debate.

HB 247 **UTILITY LAW (Romanchuk, M.)** To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements. (CONTINUED; 6th Hearing-All testimony)

Proponents continued pressing House lawmakers to support a bill to ban electric security plans over the objections of utility companies.

Tuesday marked the sixth hearing of the bill from **Rep. Mark Romanchuk** (R-Mansfield) which has been praised by consumer advocates as a way to bypass above-market riders levied on customers. But utilities remain staunchly opposed, arguing previously that MROs are less flexible and reduce competition. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, December 12, 2017**) Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston reiterated his support for the bill, echoing remarks he's made before in front of the committee. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, November 14, 2017**)

"In short, you would be solving a lot of problems and doing a lot of good for Ohioans by reforming the 2008 law to eliminate electric security plans," Mr. Weston argued.

Ned Hill, an Ohio State University economist, agreed, criticizing the deal-making process in which utilities secure interested party support for ESPs through settlement agreement "carve outs."

"In a market-based economy markets should operate for the benefit of consumers, not for the benefit of companies," he said. "House Bill 247 will ensure that this remains true for electricity customers, and not just the few that are favored in special interest carve-outs in ESPs."

Barry Matchett, director of external affairs for NRG Energy, also voiced support for the bill, which he said contains "worthy policy goals" for Ohio consumers and large energy users.

"Let me also be clear that this is a compromise bill from the start," Mr. Matchett said. "I will admit there were many proposed items that my own company would have liked to have seen included in this legislation. But what you have before you is a solid base of reforms to protect and preserve the robust and developing energy market here in Ohio primarily to the benefit of customers."

Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, submitted written interested party testimony stating the legislation is a "natural step on the heels" of a House-passed bill to rework the renewable energy standards (**HB 114**).

"As it relates to HB247, we think the steps taken in the legislation to eliminate the Electricity Security Plans (ESP) are an encouraging provision, as this would largely preclude the ability of utilities to charge above-market rates to consumers," Mr. Derry wrote.

"It would also open the way for more pro-consumer competitive outcomes through the default adoption of the Market-Rate Offer (MRO) ratemaking mechanism, which is intrinsically competitive since it sets rates through a competitive bidding process," he continued.

HB 402 **TELEPHONE REGULATION (Hill, B.)** To revise state regulation of telephone companies. (**CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent**)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the **committee's website** under Jan. 23.

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, January 23, 2018

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

HB 145 **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT** (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.) To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (**REPORTED-AMENDED**; 4th Hearing -All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted unanimously to report the bill after accepting two amendments. The first amendment, offered by Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), deals with the potential of a move of Medicaid long-term services and supports into managed care. That proposal was hotly debated in the budget, with the General Assembly putting a limit on the administration's plan to implement the move, and Gov. John Kasich vetoing the language. The issue was resolved when the Kasich administration announced it would not begin the move.

The amendment states that the General Assembly would have the final say in whether Medicaid can move long-term care services to managed care, said Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton).

The other amendment includes language considered but tabled in December dealing with the move of the regulation of dietitians and respiratory care providers to the State Medical Board. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 5, 2017)

HB 286 **PALLIATIVE CARE** (LaTourette, S.) To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor & Possible amendments)

The committee accepted an amendment offered by Sen. Burke that adds exercise physiologists to list of experts that can be appointed to the interdisciplinary council, clarifies what non-hospice palliative care candidates may receive the service from a hospice facility, and makes technical corrections.

Sponsor Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) said the bill would create an interdisciplinary council and education program to raise awareness about palliative care. Palliative care, in which a patient's quality of life is improved by reducing symptoms, pain and stress by giving them more control, is appropriate at any point in an illness, not just at the end of life.

"Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness, but when palliative care is mentioned many people do instantly think of 'hospice care' and the

conversation stops," she said. "Because of this, palliative care is drastically and disappointingly underutilized in our state."

The council would include members from fields that work closely with palliative care recipients, and would serve as an advisory council to the Department of Health," Rep. LaTourette said. "The bill also creates an education program to inform patients and medical providers about the care."

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) asked what the council's main objective would be.

The sponsor said education is important, because if people don't know about palliative care, they won't take advantage of it. The council would also be required to submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

HB 50 **EBT CARDS** (**Schaffer, T.**) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 110 **HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION** (**Tavares, C.**) To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill would require certain health care professionals to wear an identification card, badge or similar device, including a photograph, when providing care, sponsor **Sen. Charleta B. Tavares** (D-Columbus) said. The badge would be required to include the person's licensure status and staff position.

"Without this legislation it is all too easy for patients to confuse who is and is not a licensed health care professional," she said. "It is also very easy for unlicensed or unqualified individuals to administer care to unaware patients. The misrepresentation of the level of training held by health care professionals is dangerous and can result in the loss of a loved one's life."

The sponsor detailed the story of a patient in South Carolina who ultimately died from complications from a pain reliever after surgery and whose mother repeatedly asked for a veteran physician at the hospital to examine him, but was only met by residents.

"It is vital that health care professionals are required to wear identification of who they are and what their level of training is in order to insure the utmost level of transparency between patients and health professionals," she said.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked the sponsor if she has checked with hospitals to see if it is already in practice.

Sen. Tavares said she didn't know how common of a practice it is, particularly in smaller hospital systems and practices.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said many people wear badges backwards, and suggested that the requirement be that the name and status be visible.

That's the intent of the bill, Sen. Tavares said, but it could be made explicit in the bill.

SB 192 **AWARENESS WEEK** (**Tavares, C.**) To designate the last week of September as "Diaper Need Awareness Week." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Tavares said her bill would designate the final week of September as Diaper Need Awareness Week, focusing on the need by low-income families of diapers and to rally support for diaper bank programs.

"Children in low-income families are at the greatest risk of suffering the effects of diaper need because many families cannot afford diapers," she said. "Current public support programs help some, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a strong foundation for healthy growth. More awareness needs to be brought to such a critical but oftentimes overlooked necessity for Ohio families."

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the only federal program that can cover diapers, and families are often forced to choose between diapers and other services TANF covers, such as heat, electric, rent, clothing and transportation, Sen. Tavares said.

"This bill is simply meant to bring attention to this important need and to encourage those of us with a little extra to donate to the Diaper Banks in our communities or to start them," she said.

Insurance & Financial Institutions

HB 362 **HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Mark Atkeson, executive director of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System, said the bill would help the pension fund ensure continued solvency.

The bill would return the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020, calculate pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefit instead of 20 years, and eliminate the automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit, creating a set amount of \$900, increasing annually as the board determines.

The measure would also provide no survivor benefits for those who marry after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized, they will have a compounding cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," he said. "In addition, these are considered best practices and are consistent with other similar systems."

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, said the changes are needed to ensure the system's long-term health.

"Like with other pension systems, our system continues to face actuarial assumption changes that have not been seen before," he said. "Probably, the most significant change was the reduction of the investment assumed rate of return. These assumption changes increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities of a pension system. The legislative changes the HPRS board has approved are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

In written testimony, HPRS Board member Matt Them voiced support for the proposal.

"I realize no one wants to see any change in benefits, myself included, but this legislation is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency," he said. "Thus, in the long-run, a solvent and well-funded system will benefit all of us individually."

Chairman **Sen. Jay Hottinger** (R-Newark) said he hopes to vote the bill out of the committee next week.

SB 227 **HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS (Huffman, M.)** To require health plan issuers to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)**

Government Oversight & Reform

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (Huffman, M.)** To establish a process for congressional redistricting. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-All testimony)**

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, January 24

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB 191 **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Gonzales, A.) Regarding the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 24 **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS** (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 292 **OHIO RESIDENCY** (Scherer, G.) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for income tax purposes. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING** (Huffman, M.) To establish a process for congressional redistricting. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

- Presentation by Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Steven M. Click on the Ohio ASSIST (Aiding Safety Services with Incident Survival Techniques) Program

HB 459 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION** (Henne, M.) To allow groups of employers to be granted status as a self-insuring employer for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 416 **HEALTH SERVICE PRICES** (Huffman, S.) Regarding the provision of cost estimates for scheduled health care services and health care services requiring insurer preauthorization. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- HB 293** **DRIVER'S LICENSES (Scherer, G., Sheehy, M.)** To require a person to hold a temporary instruction permit for one year before obtaining a probationary driver's license and to alter the time periods during which the holder of a temporary instruction permit or probationary driver's license is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a parent or guardian. (3rd Hearing-Proponent & opponent-Possible substitute)
- HB 350** **ROAD NAMING (Craig, H.)** To designate a portion of State Route 317 in Franklin County as the "Patrolman Dane L. Rowe Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 421** **VEHICLE TITLES (Patterson, J., Becker, J.)** To provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 20** **VEHICLE CRASHES (Schaffer, T.)** To urge Congress to encourage the Administrator of the FMCSA to change the crash indicator BASIC regulation standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 400** **BRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.)** To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of State Route 169 in Trumbull County, as the "World War I and World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 401** **BRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.)** To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of United States Route 422 in Girard, as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 388** **LICENSE PLATE (Sykes, E., Roegner, K.)** To create the "Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

- HB 58** **CURSIVE HANDWRITING (Brenner, A., Slaby, M.)** To require instruction in cursive handwriting. (6th Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 449** **SPONSOR RATINGS (Rogers, J., Patterson, J.)** To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 12:15 p.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

HB 407 **ESTATE LAW** (Dever, J., Seitz, B.) To abolish the estate by dower. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 446 **POWER OF ATTORNEY** (Rogers, J., Seitz, B.) Relative to the acceptance of an acknowledged power of attorney. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Committee Record) (**Chr. Johnson, T.**, 466-2124), Rm. 116, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HR 318 **ARMED FORCES** (Dever, J.) To urge the President and Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense, to authorize the recruitment of individuals with disabilities for service in the Armed Forces of the United States. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 434 **LICENSE PLATES** (Sweeney, M., Perales, R.) To create the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Blessing, L.**, 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2:30 p.m. or after session

- 2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony on bill from Rep. Schuring on redistricting

HB 87 **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 462 **HOSPITAL CLOSINGS** (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

- HB 301** **CONSENT DECREES** (Butler, J.) To require the approval of the General Assembly for a state agency to agree to a consent decree or court-approved settlement agreement that would alter or prohibit the enforcement of a law of this state. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES** (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 127** **WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES** (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Community & Family Advancement** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022**), Rm. 114, 3 p.m. or after session
- HB 427** **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** (Young, R.) To require the Department of Health to publish monthly drug overdose death information for each county, to create grant programs to support faith-based substance abuse services, to authorize an income tax deduction for physicians providing such services for free, and to allocate funds and make an appropriation for the grant programs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)
- HB 366** **CHILD SUPPORT** (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- House Federalism & Interstate Relations** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177**), Rm. 115, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 253** **CONCEALED WEAPONS** (Householder, L., Lanese, L.) To permit law enforcement officers to carry firearms off duty in places otherwise prohibited for concealed handgun licensees. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- House State & Local Government** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041**), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 415** **ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** (Greenspan, D., Ryan, S.) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 169** **HEALTH INSURANCE** (Merrin, D.) To require, with respect to insurance contracted for or provided by the Department of Administrative Services, an individual who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage of the premium for vision, dental, or life insurance as the individual pays for health insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 298** **SICK DAYS** (Merrin, D.) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to public employees. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 314** **SAFETY TAX CREDIT** (Schaffer, T.) To allow an income tax credit for law enforcement officials who purchase safety or protective items to be used in the course of official law enforcement activities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 453** **CHARTER HOSPITALS (Greenspan, D.)** To require that all rights and interests in discoveries, inventions, or patents made by employees using charter county hospital facilities are the property of that charter county hospital. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 454** **CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)** To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 299** **DRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.)** To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 15** **YEAR DESIGNATION (O'Brien, S., Wilson, S.)** To designate 2018 as 'Ohio's Year of the Trails.' (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

Arts Council, 33rd Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m. (The Finance Committee meets previously at 9:30 a.m. and the Executive Committee meets at noon or immediately following the board meeting.)

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 1:30 p.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Oil and Gas Association and Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund news conference call on orphan well legislation, 9:30 a.m.

Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee, Rm. 1960, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) and Ohio Pharmacists' Association news conference on prescription drug legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) & Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$5,000, Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500 to Friends of Ryan Smith and Friends of Dave Greenspan RSVP required to Taylor at 740.395.7656 or Taylor@smithforohio.com)

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Tuesday, January 23, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

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Today's Stories

- [GOP, Dems Pursue Redistricting Deal; Critics Blast SJR5 in Hearing](#)
- [ECOT Appeals Shutdown; Hearing Officer Backs ODE Again; Legislators Criticize Agency](#)
- [Lawmakers Aim to Place 'Right-to-Work' Measures on 2020 Ballot](#)
- [OCC, OSU Economist Slam Electric Security Plans, Praise HB247](#)
- [Witnesses Tell Committee Bail Reform Is Needed](#)
- [Portman Addresses Reopening of Government, Reauthorization of CHIP, Imposition of Tariffs](#)
- [Trooper's Search of Detained Suspect's Purse Unconstitutional](#)
- [State Government Roundup: Cold Case](#)
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NEWS

Groups rally to fight Ohio senator's rival redistricting plan (Associated Press, 1/24/2018)

Lawyers to Ohio court: Juries, not judges, should impose death sentences (Associated Press, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers ax money proposed for film campus, Wasson Way in list to GOP leaders (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/24/2018)

'Right to work' could be on the ballot in Ohio with support from lawmakers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Ohio among northern states to lose another U.S. House seat after next census - Out of Line: Impact 2017 and Beyond (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Should ECOT founder pay money back faster? State Auditor Dave Yost says yes while school floats new plan (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Columbus lawmaker's proposal would allow physician-assisted suicide in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Democrats tussle over ECOT campaign money, but GOP got far more (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Ex-Tiberi aide to join DeWine's staff (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers take baby steps toward redistricting compromise (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Portman says killing NAFTA would be mistake (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Right-to-work would help Ohio workers, GOP lawmakers say (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

'On its last legs': Why election boards are seeking new voting machines (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Doctor-assisted suicide bill coming to Ohio Statehouse (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Ohio looking to change bail system, focusing less on money (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Portman warns Trump: killing NAFTA will kill jobs in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Thousands head back to work at Wright-Patt as shutdown ends (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers argue ECOT closing preventable (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

EDITORIALS

A fleeting moment of compromise ends the government shutdown despite "No" votes from three Ohio Democrats: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Scientists leading algae fight (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

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HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/24/2018

AP Associated Press

STATE MIGHT SEEK \$19M MORE BACK FROM CLOSED CHARTER E-SCHOOL

The giant Ohio online charter school that abruptly closed mid-school-year lost another round of its multifaceted battle with the state over funding but said Tuesday that it's still fighting to reopen, even as many of its 12,000 students are looking for new schools.

LAWYERS: JURIES, NOT JUDGES, SHOULD IMPOSE DEATH SENTENCES

Ohio's capital punishment law is unconstitutional because judges, not juries, impose death sentences in contrast to the 6th Amendment right to a jury trial, lawyers for a convicted killer argued before the state Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The Columbus Dispatch
Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

DEMOCRATS TUSSELE OVER ECOT CAMPAIGN MONEY, BUT GOP GOT FAR MORE

As Ohio's big bet on a big online charter school fizzles, candidates are pointing fingers over the \$2.1 million in campaign money the school's operator has doled out during the past two decades.

COLUMBUS LAWMAKER'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN OHIO

Lisa Vigil Schattinger wants terminally ill Ohioans to have the option chosen by her stepfather, who said his piece and then made peace with impending death from bone marrow cancer.

GOP LAWMAKERS, CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE, DEFEND ECOT; STATE SAYS SCHOOL PRIORITIZED PROFIT

Arguing that that Gov. John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Education should have kept ECOT open through the end of the school year, a handful of Republican lawmakers Tuesday defended the school and urged changes to stop a future shutdown in the middle of the school year.

RIGHT-TO-WORK WOULD HELP OHIO WORKERS, GOP LAWMAKERS SAY

A pair of Republican lawmakers said their proposal to put six right-to-work amendments on the 2020 ballot would help Ohio workers.

LAWMAKERS TAKE BABY STEPS TOWARD REDISTRICTING COMPROMISE

A whiff of progress on congressional redistricting could be permeating the Statehouse.

O'NEILL TELLS DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO VET HIM AFTER PAYING OFF TAX LIENS

Gubernatorial candidate William M. O'Neill is asking the Ohio Democratic Party to vet him after paying \$4,361 in past-due state income taxes.

ECOT APPEALS SPONSOR'S DECISION THAT SHUT SCHOOL

Shuttered online giant ECOT is not giving up efforts to keep the school open through the end of the school year.

EX-TIBERI AIDE TO JOIN DEWINE'S STAFF

Breann Gonzalez, a longtime aide to Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Genoa Township, is joining the staff of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

EDITORIAL: OHIOANS WANT REAL REDISTRICTING REFORM

Ohio House Republicans' proposed congressional boundary-drawing "reform" is a cynical exercise in damage control.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MIAMI TWP. TRUSTEE: STATE WAGE LAW 'DISCRIMINATORY,' WASTING MILLIONS

A Miami Twp. trustee is asking the state to pay for the costs of what he called an unfunded mandate that is "most discriminatory" and that he said wastes millions of dollars across Ohio.

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL COMING TO OHIO STATEHOUSE

Nearly three decades after Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian pushed doctor-assisted suicide into the national spotlight, state Sen. Charleta Tavares says it's time that Ohio legalize the practice with strict safeguards in place.

ECOT APPEALS IN FIGHT TO STAY OPEN; EMAILS SHOW STATE FIGHT

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow on Tuesday announced it is appealing the decision of its sponsor, the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, to close the embattled online school.

OHIO LOOKING TO CHANGE BAIL SYSTEM, FOCUSING LESS ON MONEY

The ACLU of Ohio says a plan to shift courts away from using cash-bail systems is a good start but doesn't go far enough to fix the broken system.

'ON ITS LAST LEGS': WHY ELECTION BOARDS ARE SEEKING NEW VOTING MACHINES

Voting equipment in many Ohio counties, including Butler County, is becoming obsolete as replacement parts are more difficult to obtain and software continues to age.

THE PLAIN DEALER

'RIGHT TO WORK' COULD BE ON THE BALLOT IN OHIO WITH SUPPORT FROM LAWMAKERS

Supporters of "right to work" legislation are taking a different route to enact changes critics say would unnecessarily weaken unions in Ohio.

SHOULD ECOT FOUNDER PAY MONEY BACK FASTER? STATE AUDITOR DAVE YOST SAYS YES WHILE SCHOOL FLOATS NEW PLAN

ECOT founder William Lager and two companies he owns have paid more than \$5 million back toward the \$80 million enrollment and state aid fight the online charter school is having with the state.

OHIO AMONG NORTHERN STATES TO LOSE ANOTHER U.S. HOUSE SEAT AFTER NEXT CENSUS - OUT OF LINE: IMPACT 2017 AND BEYOND

Ohio is on target to lose another congressional seat after the 2020 census, making it even more important that the state gets it right in deciding how to reform the way its congressional districts are drawn.

THE ENQUIRER

IN OHIO, NO ONE WANTS GOV. JOHN KASICH'S ENDORSEMENT - INCLUDING HIS FORMER RUNNING MATE WHO HAS IT

In the Republican primary for Ohio governor, no one apparently wants Gov. John Kasich's endorsement - including the candidate who has it.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

LAWMAKERS ARGUE ECOT CLOSING PREVENTABLE

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West board voted Tuesday night to accept a court-supervised master to oversee the winding down of the defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/25/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/25/2018



OHIO PART OF STUDY TO REDUCE CHILD WELFARE WORKERS TURNOVER

Officials say Ohio is joining a national research project to reduce turnover among caseworkers in the child welfare field.



KASICH DISPUTES TAYLOR'S ASSERTION THEY HAVEN'T TALKED IN A YEAR

The office of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and her own appointment calendar, dispute Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's assertion that she has not talked to the governor in more than a year.

OHIO LAWMAKERS GOING AFTER PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

When Ohioans go to pharmacists for their prescriptions, they generally assume they'll be told the truth about the costs of their medicines.

NO REDISTRICTING VOTE WITHOUT CITIZENS COALITION SUPPORT, SENATE PRESIDENT SAYS

Unless a citizens coalition agrees with a legislative plan to revamp Ohio's congressional redistricting process, Senate President Larry Obhof said the Senate won't vote on the measure.

CLINTONVILLE ARCHITECT BECOMES LATEST TO RUN FOR TIBERI'S OLD SEAT

Yet another Republican has entered the race to replace Rep. Pat Tiberi.

CORDRAY WANTS TO BRING FIGHT FOR CONSUMERS TO OHIO

Richard Cordray just finished a five-year stint running the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but on Wednesday he said he is starting his fight for consumers in Ohio.

STATE LAWMAKERS VOTE TO REGULATE 'E-BIKES'

Ohio is one of just 20 states that doesn't regulate electric bicycles, but that might be changing with new legislation.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

NEW BILL CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN DRUG PRICES

A consumer protection bill introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives this week aims to increase transparency in prescription drug pricing.

RIDING A SKATEBOARD WHILE HOLDING A CAR COULD BECOME ILLEGAL IN OHIO

Grabbing the bumper or side of a moving car and hitching a ride while on a skateboard is not specifically illegal in Ohio — something some state lawmakers want to change.

TOOL WILL ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW THE MONEY IN OHIO POLITICS

If you want to know what's going on in politics, the old adage is: follow the money.

THE PLAIN DEALER

ECOT STUDENTS RUSHING TO OTHER E-SCHOOLS BUT TRICKLING BACK TO DISTRICTS

Students from the just-closed ECOT online charter school have started to land in school districts and other charters, but the numbers remain low and it's too early to tell how well the process is working.

OHIO PAC SUPPORTING OHIO WOMEN CANDIDATES RAISES \$750,000

The Matriots, a statewide PAC supporting female candidates, started last year when a small group of Columbus-area neighbors, friends and acquaintances stood together at the Women's March on Washington and felt something big.

TALK IT OUT: SHOULD OHIO BECOME A 'RIGHT TO WORK' STATE?

Republican state Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel have proposed a package of six constitutional amendments targeting how unions operate and are funded in Ohio.

THE BLADE One of America's Great Newspapers

VOTE DELAYED ON GOP REMAP PLAN

Senate Republicans on Wednesday delayed a vote on changes to the inherently political process by which Ohio redraws congressional districts.

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NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling
(Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer,
1/25/2018)

= A

In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland
Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository, 1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

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OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

Farm and Dairy: Ohio Cattlemen's Association honors family farms

Ohio Rep. Brian Hill received the association's Industry Service Award. Hill, a longtime association member, raises beef cattle on his family farm in Muskingum County, and is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, after serving as a county commissioner for more than six years. ... "It's easy to go to Columbus to fight on your behalf," Hill told the cattlemen Saturday night.

Columbus Dispatch: State lawmakers vote to regulate 'e-bikes'

House Bill 250, introduced by Rep. Tom Brinkman, a Cincinnati-area Republican, would regulate electric bicycles, also called e-bikes, and hold them to many of the same standards as normal bicycles. ... "This new technology in e-bikes will allow more Ohioans to use our wonderful trail network, longer and later in life," Brinkman said.

Dayton Daily News: New bill calls for more transparency in drug prices

"Action is needed to address the rising prescription drug prices to protect Ohio consumers," said state Rep. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, one of the sponsors of House Bill 479. "Prescription drug pricing in its supply chain is complex and broke and needs to be scrutinized."

Alliance Review: State Rep. Christina Hagan shows support for emergency personnel

"I am honored to discuss legislative matters impacting our community leaders and safety services, and to work toward solutions with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association," said Hagan. "I'm thankful for the daily sacrifices of all our Ohio firefighters and first responders."

WHAM: Mom pushes for change after 3 year old denied heart transplant due to Down syndrome

Miamisburg Representative Niraj Antani (R-District 42) is a primary sponsor of the bill and said, "They're told that they won't be able to follow the post operation regimen, their body won't be able to handle it, or that its implied that their life is less worthy and that's wrong."

Sandusky Register: State bill aims to plug orphan wells

"As the representative of a district that is very concerned with the harmful effects of human activity on the environment ... I was proud to co-sponsor House Bill 225," Arndt said. "This legislation will help homeowners that discover abandoned orphan wells on their properties to properly address them."

My Town NEO: Hudson boys cross country team recognized by Roegner, LaRose

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to win a state title," Roegner said. "Our Hudson Boys Cross Country Team won the Division I State Championship through steadfast dedication. With an average 3.99 GPA, they are incredible student athletes and have earned the admiration of the state of Ohio."

Columbus Dispatch: Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers

Reps. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, and Thomas West, D-Canton, say pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs) are issuing "gag orders" to keep pharmacists quiet about what could be cheaper medicines for their clients, and keeping the extra money for themselves — something the lawmakers hope to ban with new legislation, House Bill 479.

WKSU: Conservative lawmakers renew their push for Ohio to become a right-to-work state

Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel say their bill would allow voters to decide whether Ohio should be a right-to-work state for public and private sector employees and would put limits on unions to collect dues and spend money on political ads. Riedel says Ohioans should decide this issue, once and for all.

Marion Online: Riordan McClain sworn in as State Representative of the 87th Ohio House District

"Riordan McClain's experience in the private sector and financial management will surely prove to be a valuable asset to our caucus," said Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville). ... "I accept this appointment and will be honored to serve Ohio's 87th House District as state representative. I am appreciative of all the support that I've received through this process and look to carry that forward into a successful term representing our shared values," said McClain.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Business growth affirms healthy economy

The eighth consecutive year the state has experienced a record number of filings, new businesses have grown more than 46 percent since 2010. This continued progress is a

sure sign of economic health — when individuals are thriving and feel comfortable, they are able to invest in establishing their own business.

Portsmouth Daily Times: Rep. Johnson honors 'Burg with state resolution

Ohio State Representative Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) honored the Wheelersburg Pirates' football program for its state championship run back in the fall.

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Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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Today's Stories

- [Pillich Expected to End Gubernatorial Campaign Wednesday](#)
- [Chief Justice Suggests ECOT's Enrollment-Minus-Participation Argument Leads to 'Absurd Result'](#)
- [ProMedica Signs Transfer Agreement with Toledo Abortion Clinic](#)
- [CSRAB Unveils Painting of Lincoln Addressing General Assembly](#)
- [Liberal Groups Slam 'Right-to-Work' Proposals, Offer Policy Alternatives](#)
- ['Sexting' Ban Gets First Hearing](#)
- [Legislation Conforming Ohio Law to New Federal Tax Law Begins Hearings in House](#)
- [HB228 Draws Wide Range of Testimony on Gun, Self-Defense Issues](#)
- [School Board Talks Graduation, ECOT Response, Machine Scoring of Tests](#)
- [AEP Draws Vocal Support for Clean Energy Plan in First Public Hearing on ESP](#)
- [Hambley, Sweeney Introduce 'Ohio Proud Craft Beer Act'](#)
- [AG Warns of Romance Scams](#)
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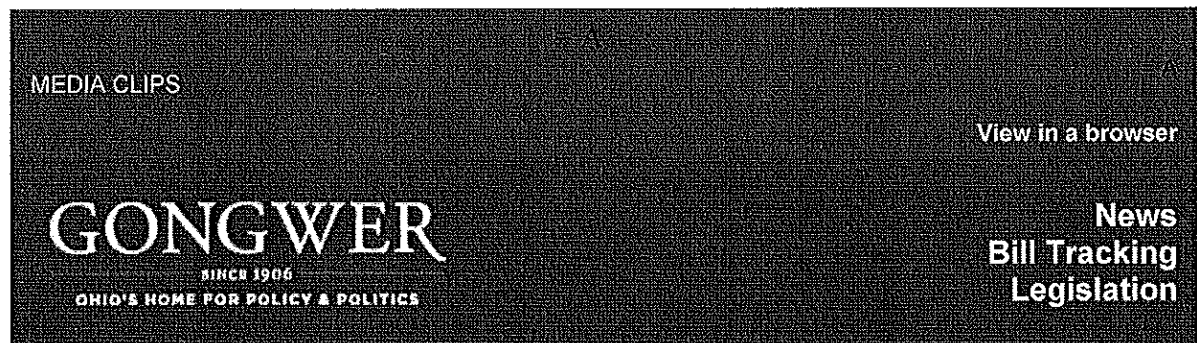
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NEWS

Akron prepares for a possible loss in court against the state (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/14/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court hears arguments in online charter school case (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Report: Fertilizer, manure top Lake Erie phosphorus sources (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Source: Pillich to leave governor's race, back Cordray (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Portman 'shocked' ex-aide accused of abuse (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Sole female Dem in gubernatorial race to quit (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Connie Pillich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Lawmakers must rewrite Ohio bill to reflect new federal tax rules (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Ohio's charter school quality crackdown claims a big-city victim - the Cincinnati school district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Skill games to be regulated by Ohio Casino Control Commission (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Chief justice to ECOT attorney: 'How is that not absurd?' (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Kasich chosen to address graduates of Kennedy School in May (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

New report from pro-labor group pans right-to-work proposals (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Ohio wants to require those on Medicaid to get a job (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Pillich to leave race for governor, back Cordray (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Podcast: A discussion with gubernatorial candidate William O'Neill (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Portman shocked at allegations of abuse by former aide (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

President Trump jokes with Sherrod Brown on DACA (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Ohio considers raising child marriage age after DDN investigation (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Portman's vetting of staffer didn't turn up complaints of wife abuse (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Vicious dogs: Ohio moves to change laws on dog owners (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

ECOT asks high court to restore its funding (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

Toledo's only abortion clinic now in time race to get transfer agreement signed (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Unconscionable failure by Ohio Justices O'Donnell, DeWine to recuse in ECOT case after taking thousands in campaign dollars: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Great Lakes once again in budget crosshairs (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

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HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC

A hospital system has authorized a patient-transfer agreement to keep the last abortion clinic in Toledo operating.



PILLICH TO LEAVE RACE FOR GOVERNOR, BACK CORDRAY

Only one of the original Democrats running for governor will still be in the race after Wednesday.

OHIO WANTS TO REQUIRE THOSE ON MEDICAID TO GET A JOB

Thousands of Ohioans soon might need to find a job or lose their Medicaid health insurance.

KASICH CHOSEN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF KENNEDY SCHOOL IN MAY

Gov. Kasich will address the 2018 graduates of the Harvard Kennedy School in May, the dean of the school said Tuesday.

CHIEF JUSTICE ON ECOT CLAIM FOR STATE MONEY: 'HOW IS THAT NOT ABSURD?'

As ECOT attorney Marion Little finished his arguments for why, under the law, the online school should get full funding for students even if they only log in once a month and do no work, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor interjected.

KASICH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP TO ATTEND OFFICERS' FUNERAL IN WESTERVILLE

Long-time Westerville resident Gov. John Kasich is postponing a foreign trade trip to attend the Friday funeral of two police officers slain in his hometown on Saturday.

A FIFTH OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NEED HELP TO EARN A DIPLOMA THIS YEAR

Less than five months from graduation, one out of five Ohio high school seniors still wouldn't qualify for a diploma under more-stringent state standards — requirements that at least temporarily have been softened to avert just such a crisis.

NEW REPORT FROM PRO-LABOR GROUP PANS RIGHT-TO-WORK PROPOSALS

In the wake of proposed right-to-work amendments by Republican lawmakers, a newly released report is recommending politicians can support Ohio workers by backing off of regulating unions.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO CONSIDERS RAISING CHILD MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DDN INVESTIGATION

An investigation by the Dayton Daily News into child marriage is prompting state lawmakers to introduce a bill that would bump up the legal marriage age to 18 for both males and females and allow 17-year-olds to marry with court approval.

VICIOUS DOGS: OHIO MOVES TO CHANGE LAWS ON DOG OWNERS

Four years after the gruesome attack that killed Dayton resident Klonda Richey, state lawmakers are taking a double barrel approach to finally putting more teeth in the state's vicious dog laws.

CINCINNATI DEMOCRAT CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO LEAVE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Former state representative Connie Pillich — the last woman leading a Democratic ticket for governor — is expected to drop out of the race and endorse former attorney general Rich Cordray on Wednesday, sources close to the campaign said.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOL QUALITY CRACKDOWN CLAIMS A BIG-CITY VICTIM - THE CINCINNATI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ohio's push to improve charter school quality has booted a major city school district - the Cincinnati Public Schools - out of the charter school business.

CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Connie Pillich, the lone remaining Democratic woman running for governor in what was supposed to be the "year of the woman," will drop out of the race Wednesday to endorse Richard Cordray, according to two Democratic sources.

ECOT FUNDING QUESTIONED BY OHIO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: "HOW IS IT NOT ABSURD?"

Ohio Supreme Court justices were wary this morning of how the ECOT online charter school wants to be funded as the school and Ohio Department of Education pleaded their cases to the court.

**UNCONSCIONABLE FAILURE BY OHIO JUSTICES O'DONNELL, DeWINE TO
RECUSE IN ECOT CASE AFTER TAKING THOUSANDS IN CAMPAIGN DOLLARS:**

EDITORIAL

The seven-member Ohio Supreme Court is hearing arguments this morning in a case whose outcome may kill or revive the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, or ECOT, the online charter school that shut down last month.

THE ENQUIRER

**CONNIE PILLICH TO END GUBERNATORIAL BID; ENDORSE CORDRAY. WAS THE
LONE FEMALE DEMOCRAT IN THE RACE**

In the so-called "year of the woman," the sole female in the Democratic race for governor will bow out to endorse former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray.

DEMOCRAT KATHY WYENANDT FILES TO RUN IN OHIO 52ND DISTRICT

Democrat Kathy Wyenandt is challenging Republican George Lang for his Ohio House seat.

THE BLADE
One of America's Great Newspapers

ECOT ASKS HIGH COURT TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING

Clinging to hope of reopening its virtual doors, what was once Ohio's largest online school on Tuesday urged the Ohio Supreme Court to halt state efforts to claw back tens of millions in past aid.

PILLICH TO DROP OHIO GOVERNOR BID

Another Democratic candidate for governor will drop out of the race Wednesday and throw her support to Richard Cordray for the party's nomination.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/26/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/26/2018



FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP VOTERS

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN TOLEDO

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytendailynews.com

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO LAWMAKERS

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

THE PLAIN DEALER

KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

THE ENQUIRER

**THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS
– AND DEMOCRATS.**

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

THE BLADE
One of America's Great Newspapers

LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/2/2018



BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.



FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE One of America's Great Newspapers

KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:56 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/15/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/15/2018



GOP GOV. KASICH TO SHARE OHIO PLAN TO HELP LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is announcing an initiative aimed at helping legal immigrants successfully integrate in the state.

OHIO HOUSE GOP TO PICK NEW SPEAKER; LAST LEADER RESIGNED

Republicans in the Ohio House are slated to vote on a new House speaker after the previous leader resigned amid an FBI inquiry surrounding his activities.



KASICH, DEWINE OPPOSE SPORTS BETTING; CORDRAY WOULD CONSIDER IT

Can you imagine betting a few bucks — legally — on the Ohio State University football Buckeyes to cover the spread against That Team up North?

HUNDREDS GATHER AT STATEHOUSE TO MARK REBIRTH OF POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Almost 50 years to the day after the original Poor People's Campaign marched on Washington, the current iteration of the movement descended on the Statehouse steps to call on the General Assembly to address the plight of the millions of people living in poverty.

HOUSE GOP DRAGGED INTO CONTENTIOUS TUESDAY SPEAKER VOTE

The House speaker is one of the most powerful people in state government, and Ohio lawmakers are about to pick a new one in a rare mid-term replacement.

MANY STATE EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 8.7% RAISE OVER 3 YEARS

Members of the state's largest employee union will receive a raise of more than 8 percent over three years in a contract ratified by the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association.

DISPUTE OVER PROTECTION OF EVIDENCE IN ECOT CASE RESOLVED

The Ohio auditor's office has finished collecting data for a criminal investigation of failed online charter school ECOT and placed the records in an evidence locker, where they can be

opened and reviewed only by a judge's order under an agreement reached Monday in Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

THE PLAIN DEALER

SPORTS WAGERING COULD BE HEADING TO OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING

Placing sports bets at Ohio casinos made giant leap toward becoming legal with a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday.

MIKE DeWINE RAISED \$1 MILLION IN 72 HOURS FOLLOWING HIS GOP PRIMARY WIN, HIS CAMPAIGN SAYS

Mike DeWine's campaign for governor raised \$1 million in the 72-hour period after he won the Republican nomination last week, his campaign said Monday.

FORUM LOOKS TO FIND ANSWERS ON HOW TO GET MORE WOMEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS

Three politically astute women will share their insights into the disparity between men and women in politics at a Wednesday forum in Cleveland Heights.

OHIO MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMPANIES AWAIT JUDGE'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO PAUSE GROW LICENSES

The decision of whether to halt a portion of Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program - which the state argues will delay cannabis from getting to sick patients - is now in Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Richard Frye's hands.

THE ENQUIRER

WILL OHIO LEGALIZE SPORTS GAMBLING AFTER U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION?

Want to bet on the Cincinnati Bearcats, Ohio State University Buckeyes or Cincinnati Bengals?

FBI INVESTIGATION: WHO WILL WIN THE GOP BATTLE TO LEAD THE OHIO HOUSE?

Right to work. Abortion restrictions. Gun laws. Money for schools. Medicaid expansion. A key person controlling decisions on these controversial, complex topics: the Ohio House speaker.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

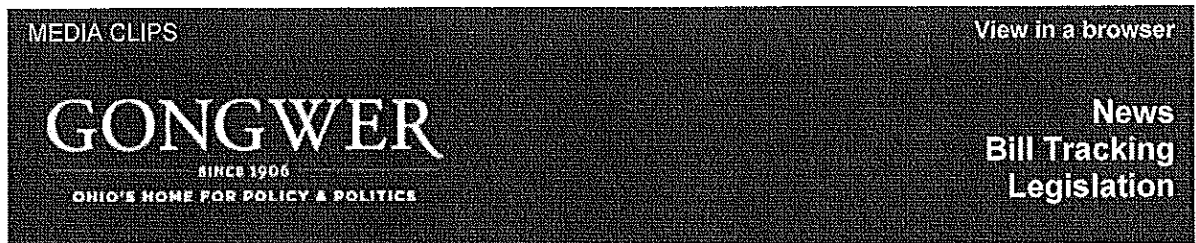
SUPREME COURT LETS STATES, INCLUDING OHIO, LEGALIZE SPORTS GAMBLING

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday opened the door for states like Ohio to enter the sports-betting arena, but it remains to be seen whether the Buckeye State is ready to walk through it.

SCHOOL THAT TOOK ECOT STUDENTS WANTS POOR SCORES IGNORED

Maumee-based Ohio Virtual Academy and its sponsor are asking lawmakers to provide a "safe harbor" from potentially poor academic performance by students who transferred from the now-shuttered Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:23 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, May 31



NEWS

Trump signs bill for terminal patients to try unproven drugs (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/31/2018)

Group says Ohio needs office to lobby for more military jobs (Associated Press, 5/31/2018)

Mike DeWine says right-to-work is not on his agenda. So did GOP governors who later supported it. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Paul Ryan to attend Troy Balderson fundraiser in suburban Columbus (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Questions about funding stall Ohio bail-reform bill (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

State Rep. Scott Lipps wears his last name with a smile (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Brown-Portman bill would give fentanyl detectors to law enforcement (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Democratic group assails Balderson on ECOT campaign cash (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Group says Ohio needs office to lobby for military jobs (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Speaker feud continues as Smith backers call for immediate vote (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Bill would push Ohio schools to open after Labor Day (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Dayton company part of 'clean energy' movement that could create 20K Ohio jobs (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Dems want to pin ECOT blame on GOP in fall election: What's really going on (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Ohio House speaker candidate demands immediate vote (Toledo Blade, 5/31/2018)

Lawmakers losing patience get the promise of a light at the end of the tunnel (WDTN, 5/31/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Listening to voters, the ACLU of Ohio way (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/31/2018)

A troubling window into Army Corps machinations over Cuyahoga River dredge: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Decisions made in Columbus are forcing local tax increases (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Editorial: Only one real choice in Ohio House speaker mess (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:44 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/31/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/31/2018



GROUP SAYS OHIO NEEDS OFFICE TO LOBBY FOR MILITARY JOBS

Ohio needs an agency that would help put the state at the forefront of military development and lobby for its current bases, a statewide committee recommended.



DEMOCRATIC GROUP ASSAILS BALDERSON ON ECOT CAMPAIGN CASH

An independent organization backing Democrats launched a digital TV commercial against U.S. House Republican candidate Troy Balderson for not giving up \$10,000 in campaign contributions to the founder of defunct online school ECOT.

SPEAKER FEUD CONTINUES AS SMITH BACKERS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE VOTE

Stressing that they are not the ones keeping the House from conducting business, Rep. Ryan Smith and about 25 of his supporters gathered Wednesday to urge a speaker's vote be called as soon as Thursday.

EDITORIAL: ONLY ONE REAL CHOICE IN OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER MESS

The unprecedented breakdown of leadership in the Ohio House of Representatives is about one thing — serving one member's ambition to be speaker come January — and it's time for it to stop.



BILL WOULD PUSH OHIO SCHOOLS TO OPEN AFTER LABOR DAY

A bill calling for Ohio schools to begin the academic year after Labor Day had its second hearing before the Ohio House Education Committee last week.

THE PLAIN DEALER

MIKE DEWINE SAYS RIGHT-TO-WORK IS NOT ON HIS AGENDA. SO DID GOP GOVERNORS WHO LATER SUPPORTED IT.

Attorney General Mike DeWine, the Republican nominee for governor, side-stepped questions on Wednesday about whether he would support so-called right-to-work legislation.

STATE REP. SCOTT LIPPS WEARS HIS LAST NAME WITH A SMILE

In the halls of the Ohio Statehouse, it's usually not hard to guess which lawmaker is state Rep. Scott Lipps.

PAUL RYAN TO ATTEND TROY BALDERSON FUNDRAISER IN SUBURBAN COLUMBUS

U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan is set to be in suburban Columbus on Wednesday afternoon for a fundraiser on behalf of 12th Congressional District Republican nominee Troy Balderson, according to Balderson's campaign.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers.

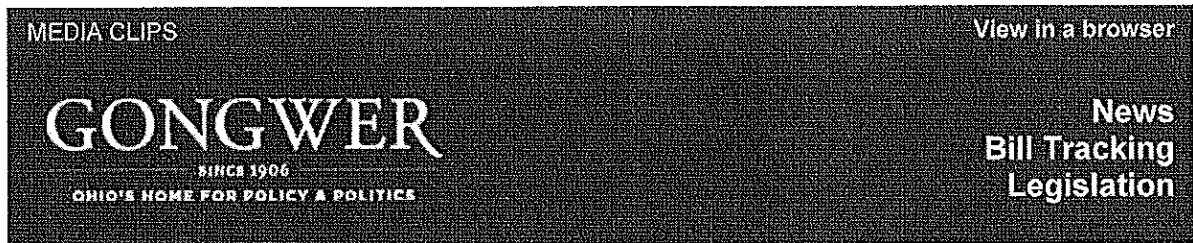
REAGAN TOKES RALLY TO PROMOTE SELF-DEFENSE, LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

In a public park less than five miles from where Reagan Tokes was killed 16 months ago, a rally will be held next week to retell her story and promote self-defense and legislative reforms to prevent that story from being repeated.

OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER CANDIDATE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE VOTE

The leading candidate to be Ohio's next House speaker insisted Wednesday on an immediate vote of the chamber rather than a change in rules to allow the current second-in-command to perform the duties of the job but without the title.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 8:20 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, June 14



NEWS

Ex-Rep. Gabby Giffords speaks against gun violence in Ohio (Associated Press, 6/14/2018)

Ohio's top court hears arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 6/14/2018)

Mike Pence will be met with dancing drag queens in Columbus (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

Poll: Ohio voters want to send message to Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

This 2018 poll has lots to make Ohio GOP worry (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

Businesses want loans to fix failing multi-employer pension system (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Jim Renacci's Senate campaign is staffing up for November 2018 Ohio election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Ohio dark-money group broke campaign-finance rules, group claims (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Richard Cordray, Mike DeWine tied in latest poll. Sherrod Brown up big ... again. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Brown confident jobs safe at defense agencies in Whitehall (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Businesses warn of dire threat if multiemployer pension crisis is not addressed (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

DeWine fights union plea for clothing allowance payments (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

DeWine, Portman will share spotlight during Pence visit (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

List of Ohio doctors approved to recommend medical marijuana grows (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Partnership to free up more money for Ohio suicide prevention programs (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Quinnipiac poll: DeWine-Cordray race too close to call (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Republican auditor candidate says opponent doesn't understand job (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Gov. John Kasich more popular with Democrats in Ohio than Republicans, poll says (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

New polls show Sherrod Brown up big over Jim Renacci in US Senate race (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

Who is Rep. Jim Jordan's favorite liberal? The answer might surprise you. (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

Sen. Sherrod Brown: Farm Bill might aid Lake Erie (Toledo Blade, 6/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Forward with public universities (Akron Beacon Journal, 6/14/2018)

Editorial: Expect to hear = 2voter purge' into November (Canton Repository, 6/14/2018)

Editorial: Voter registrations won't be canceled; Ohioans should use them (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Sutton: If DeWine opposes right-to-work he should say so (Youngstown Vindicator, 6/14/2018)

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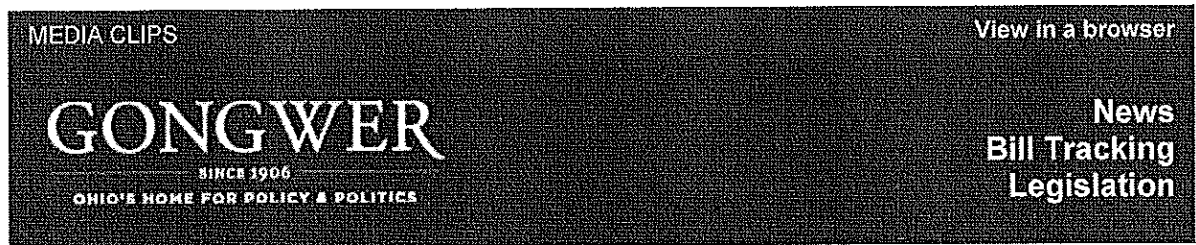
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:37 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, June 28



NEWS

Firm hired to investigate lawmaker also donated to him (Associated Press, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers look to provide online academy 'safe harbor' (Associated Press, 6/28/2018)

Grab a beer with man's best friend: Ohio expected to allow dogs on patios (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/28/2018)

This U.S. Supreme Court decision might have forced Ohio into 'right-to-work' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/28/2018)

Bone appetit: Dogs could soon be welcome at bar and restaurant patios (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers OK \$114.5 million for new voting machines (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio Senate Democrats push for payday lending vote; Republicans scramble to shut it down (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Schools that took in ECOT kids win 'safe harbor' from penalties for bad grades (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Sherrod Brown nabs endorsement from Ohio doctors group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Drug middlemen charging Ohioans triple the going rate (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Law firm that cleared legislator also gave him cash (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature sends package of e-school bills to Kasich (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature sends package of e-school bills to Kasich (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio payday lenders off the hook — for now at least (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Sexting bill looks to give teens a break for bad choice (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio congressman: Delay replacing Justice Kennedy till after fall election (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio House votes to prohibit forcing churches to perform gay weddings (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to ban sexting by anyone under 19, set up diversion program (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to end fees charged for credit freezes (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to raise marriage age after Dayton Daily News investigation (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

High court strikes down fair-share fees for public workers (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

Last minute bills move in Ohio House, Senate (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

State lawmakers approve Lake Erie funding bill (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

Toledo abortion clinic argues state fines unwarranted (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

EDITORIALS

Sarah LaTourette a rising star in Ohio House: Brent Larkin (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Editorial: Cops in schools are helpful with appropriate guidelines (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Payday lending fiasco (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 6/28/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

6/28/2018



OHIO LAWMAKERS LOOK TO PROVIDE ONLINE ACADEMY 'SAFE HARBOR'

Ohio's Republican-led Legislature is preparing to temporarily relax academic performance standards on a virtual school that took in thousands of students from a now-shuttered competitor.

FIRM HIRED TO INVESTIGATE LAWMAKER ALSO DONATED TO HIM

A law firm that cleared one of Ohio's most powerful state lawmakers of a sexual harassment allegation in April contributed to the politician's campaign while the probe was going on, state campaign finance filings show.



DRUG MIDDLEMEN CHARGING OHIOANS TRIPLE THE GOING RATE — OR MORE

Pharmacy middlemen are charging Ohio taxpayers three to six times as much to process prescription drugs for the poor and disabled as the industry standard.

OHIO LEGISLATURE SENDS PACKAGE OF E-SCHOOL BILLS TO KASICH

With ECOT closed and other Ohio e-schools still struggling to verify the enrollment numbers used to pay them, state legislators sent a package of proposals to Gov. John Kasich aimed at clarifying the basis for paying the schools.

PASTOR PROTECTION ACT PASSES OVER DISCRIMINATION CONCERNS

A Pastor Protection Act that supporters say upholds religious freedom but critics call unnecessary and discriminatory against gay couples was approved by the Ohio House on Wednesday.

LAW FIRM THAT CLEARED LEGISLATOR ALSO GAVE HIM CASH

The Ohio House of Representatives regularly has turned to the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister when in need of an outside investigator.

SEXTING BILL LOOKS TO GIVE TEENS A BREAK FOR BAD CHOICE

Not wanting to hammer all teens with harsh penalties when they are caught sending nude photographs, the Ohio House voted unanimously on Wednesday to support a lesser penalty for young first-time offenders.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO HOUSE VOTES TO REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR TRASH TRUCKS

A measure to require drivers to "move over" when passing trash trucks with flashing lights was approved by the Ohio House on Wednesday on a 84-0 vote.

OHIO LAWMAKERS VOTE TO RAISE MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DAYTON DAILY NEWS INVESTIGATION

Following a Dayton Daily News investigation into thousands of minors getting married in Ohio, lawmakers on Wednesday voted to raise the marriage age to 18 and allow 17-year-olds to marry under some conditions.

OHIO TEACHERS MAY FACE MORE TRAINING ON YOUTH SUICIDE RISKS

Teachers and other public school workers would be required to be trained on the signs that a youth may be at risk of suicide, under a bill that passed the Ohio House on Wednesday by a 82-0 vote.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATS PUSH FOR PAYDAY LENDING VOTE; REPUBLICANS SCRAMBLE TO SHUT IT DOWN

Democrats on a committee vetting a proposal to restrict payday loans tried to advance the measure to the full Senate on Wednesday, but the Republican majority successfully defeated the effort.

OHIO LAWMAKERS OK \$114.5 MILLION FOR NEW VOTING MACHINES

Help is on the way to replace Ohio's aging voting machines.

SCHOOLS THAT TOOK IN ECOT KIDS WIN 'SAFE HARBOR' FROM PENALTIES FOR BAD GRADES

ECOT students were so far behind other students that schools taking them in deserve a "safe harbor" from damage to their grades, the Ohio legislature decided Wednesday.

OHIO LEGISLATURE PASSES BLOCKCHAIN LEGISLATION

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

OHIO LAWMAKERS PASS WAVE OF BILLS HEADING INTO SUMMER BREAK: CAPITOL LETTER

Wrapping up: On their final session day before the Ohio General Assembly heads into summer break, both chambers passed dozens of bills during marathon sessions that lasted well into Wednesday evening.

SARAH LATOURETTE A RISING STAR IN OHIO HOUSE: BRENT LARKIN

Sarah LaTourette was afraid to tell her father.

THE ENQUIRER

GRAB A BEER WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND: OHIO EXPECTED TO ALLOW DOGS ON PATIOS

In the middle of the dog days of summer or after a "ruff" time at work, you'll soon be able to sip a Bud – or maybe some hair of the dog – with man's best friend, thanks to a bill passed by Ohio lawmakers to allow dogs on outdoor patios.

THIS U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION MIGHT HAVE FORCED OHIO INTO 'RIGHT-TO-WORK'

Remember that bitter fight against Ohio's Senate Bill 5? A U.S. Supreme Court decision just upended part of it.

PAYDAY LENDING: NO VOTE ON CONTROVERSIAL BILL FOR NOW

Ohio lawmakers won't place any more restrictions on the payday lending industry for now – slowing down a bill that sped through one chamber following an FBI probe into its leader's travel with lobbyists.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

STATE LAWMAKERS APPROVE LAKE ERIE FUNDING BILL

As the annual peak season for toxic algal blooms on Lake Erie approaches, lawmakers on Wednesday finalized a bipartisan measure putting \$36 million more in state funds behind efforts to tackle the issue even as critics argue that just throwing more money at the problem isn't the answer.

LAST MINUTE BILLS MOVE IN OHIO HOUSE, SENATE

In their rush for the door for the summer, the Ohio House and Senate on Wednesday voted on more than 50 bills, with some headed for the governor's signature.

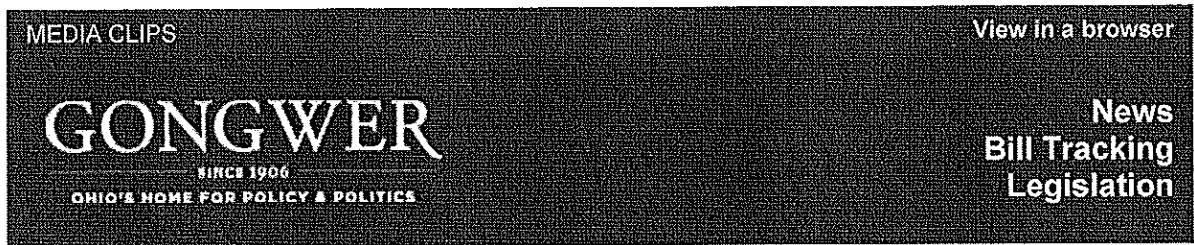
BILL PROTECTING E-SCHOOL HEADS TO GOVERNOR

A bill shielding what is now Ohio's largest online school and its sponsor from the negative consequences of accepting thousands of former Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow students is headed to Gov. John Kasich for his signature.

EDITORIAL: PAYDAY LENDING FIASCO

Clamping down on predatory lenders, who charge Ohioans the highest interest rates in the nation, should not require a constitutional amendment, but apparently it's going to.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Friday, July 6



NEWS

**Payday loans, guns among stalled issues at Ohio Statehouse
(Associated Press, 7/6/2018)**

**Status of 2,300 former ECOT students unknown, Associated Press
reports (Associated Press, 7/6/2018)**

Why is PG Sittenfeld raising money? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/6/2018)

**Why Ohio keeps voting on odd, complicated issues (Cincinnati Enquirer,
7/6/2018)**

**Ohio drug treatment and rehabilitation amendment could be on
November ballot (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**Ohio Libertarians seek a return to the ballot this year (Cleveland Plain
Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**Right-to-work group demands Ohio stop collecting union dues from
some state workers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

**What medical conditions can be treated with medical marijuana in Ohio?
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)**

Democrat Danny O'Connor launches ad linking himself to ... John Kasich? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

DeWine says hands tied on pursuing ECOT -- until trial-court ruling (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio Libertarians submit petition forms to regain minor-party status (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio native Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist, is new EPA leader (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Trump says he doesn't believe allegations against Jim Jordan; new victim emerges (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Congressman Jim Jordan knew about sex abuse at OSU, former wrestlers say (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Medical marijuana in Ohio: 8 key questions answered as the program nears (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Ohio lawmakers respond to EPA chief resignation (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Local dog breeders, retailers react to new anti-puppy-mill law (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Two Ballot Campaigns Spend Holiday Collecting Signatures (WOSU Public Media, 7/6/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: Statehouse security should be applied evenly to all (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Richard Cordray's Nazi analogy was an overreach (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Slavery in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:41 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/6/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

7/6/2018



OHIO UNSURE OF STATUS OF 2,300 STUDENTS FROM CLOSED E-SCHOOL

Many of the students enrolled in Ohio's largest online charter school when it closed in January have transferred to other schools, but state officials don't know what happened with about 2,300 students.

OHIO NATIVE ANDREW WHEELER, FORMER COAL LOBBYIST, IS NEW EPA

LEADER

The new leader of the Environmental Protection Agency is a former coal industry lobbyist who helped lead an industry fight against regulations that protect Americans' health and address climate change.



DEWINE SAYS HANDS TIED ON PURSUING ECOT -- UNTIL TRIAL-COURT

RULING

Responding to critics questioning why it did not take action against ECOT founder Bill Lager years ago, the office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says its hands were legally tied until a lower court ruling in March.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SUBMIT PETITION FORMS TO REGAIN MINOR-PARTY

STATUS

The Libertarian Party of Ohio expects its comeback to succeed, allowing the party to field candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices this fall.

DEMOCRAT DANNY O'CONNOR LAUNCHES AD LINKING HIMSELF TO ... JOHN KASICH?

In a bid to win the support of independents and moderate Republicans, Democratic congressional candidate Danny O'Connor has launched a 30-second TV commercial

featuring an endorsement from a Delaware woman who voted for Ohio Gov. John Kasich and President Donald Trump.

EDITORIAL: STATEHOUSE SECURITY SHOULD BE APPLIED EVENLY TO ALL

It is disappointing that Statehouse security officials and a two-term state representative haven't been able to resolve the lawmaker's allegation that she has been inappropriately hassled multiple times while trying to enter the building.

THE PLAIN DEALER

RIGHT-TO-WORK GROUP DEMANDS OHIO STOP COLLECTING UNION DUES FROM SOME STATE WORKERS

A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened to launch a class-action suit against Ohio and 19 other states if they don't immediately stop deducting union dues from non-union public employees' paychecks following a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

OHIO DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AMENDMENT COULD BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Supporters of a proposal to reduce penalties for nonviolent drug crime offenders submitted hundreds of thousands of signatures on Wednesday to put the measure on the November ballot.

WHAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS CAN BE TREATED WITH MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN OHIO?

The success of a state's medical marijuana program can hinge on what medical conditions qualify a patient for treatment with cannabis.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SEEK A RETURN TO THE BALLOT THIS YEAR

After almost four years in the political wilderness, the Libertarian Party of Ohio is seeking to regain state recognition for the 2018 midterm election.

'RIGHT-TO-WORK' GROUP THREATENS TO SUE OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING: CAPITOL LETTER

Just due it: A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers.

THE ENQUIRER

DIALYSIS TO DUELS: WHY OHIO KEEPS VOTING ON ODD, COMPLICATED BALLOT ISSUES

Are you well-versed in kidney dialysis pricing? Do you understand how Medicaid pays for prescription drugs?

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

RICHARD CORDRAY'S NAZI ANALOGY WAS AN OVERREACH

Republicans have pounced on Ohio Democratic governor candidate Richard Cordray for referencing Nazis in two recent rallies.

LOCAL DOG BREEDERS, RETAILERS REACT TO NEW ANTI-PUPPY-MILL LAW

Richard Stroshine, co-owner of Stroshine's Studs and Buds in Northwood, is too familiar with the horrors of puppy mills.

EDITORIAL: SLAVERY IN OHIO

Former U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach is running for Attorney General of Ohio, in part, on the promise that he will focus on human trafficking.

EDITORIAL: REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

If you haven't voted in a while, check to make sure you are registered.

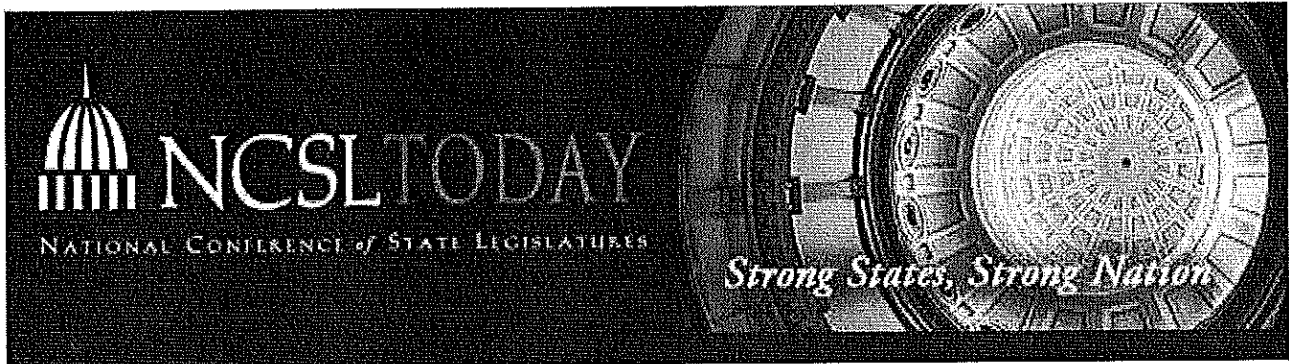
From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 10:55 AM

To: Zielinski, Justin

Subject: Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 12, 2018

Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

The Los Angeles Times

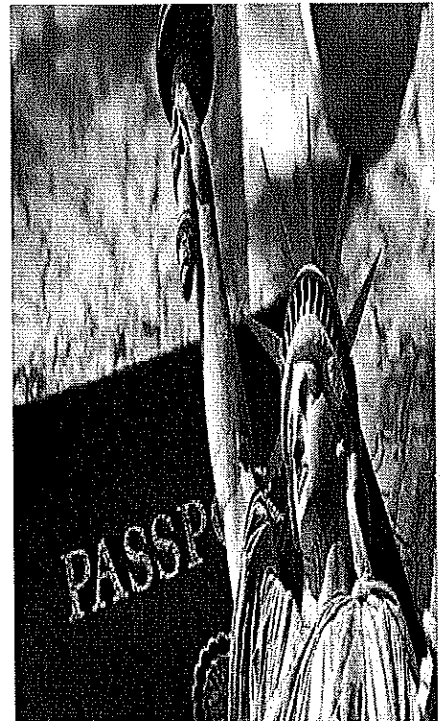
As Silicon Valley and automakers attempt to steer the nation toward a future of driverless vehicles, a group of influential lawmakers remains concerned that bipartisan legislation now moving through Congress could leave consumers at risk by preventing states from demanding tighter safety regulations. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL research on self-driving vehicle legislation.](#)

Report: Hate crimes rise in California for third straight year

The Los Angeles Times

There were 1,093 reported hate crimes in California in 2017, a 17.4 percent increase, according to a report released Monday by the California attorney general's office. Hate crimes have increased annually since 2014, jumping



roughly 44 percent in that three-year span, records show.

Alabama lawmakers consider outlawing leaving pets in hot car

AL.com

Alabama could see a new law against leaving pets in hot cars after overwhelming public outcry over the death of a dog in Trussville last week. And according to one of the state's highest-ranking lawmakers, that new law might also allow for the smashing of car windows to save a trapped animal.

U.S. targeted breastfeeding abroad. Here at home it's another story

Stateline

The U.S. position on a resolution to support breastfeeding counters domestic legislation.

Could Missouri's right-to-work vote be a 'turnaround' for labor?

Kansas City Star

As state after state adopts right-to-work laws, national unions are hoping Missouri is the "wall" that the policy's supporters can't get through. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL resources on right-to-work laws.](#)

Unions could no longer get Medicaid money under new Trump proposal

Governing

The federal government wants to roll back an Obama-era rule that lets some Medicaid payments go toward unions

U.S. immigration: A primer for state policy makers

This primer for policymakers is intended to provide a clear and concise introduction to current immigration and refugee policy, trends in state immigration legislation, and key studies that seek to assess fiscal and economic impacts of immigrants in the United States.



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Webinar July 17: Bill information service training

**Webinar 2 p.m. (ET)
TODAY: Suspension and
expulsion in early years**

Traffic safety trends - 2017 legislative action



Hawaii bans coral-harming sunscreen

Hawaii just became the first state to ban sunscreens harmful to coral reefs.

that represent home health care workers -- one of the fastest-growing and lowest-paid jobs.



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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: BioOhio
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:56 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: BioOhio BioBulletin, March

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BioBulletin: March 2017



Celebrating 30 years supporting Ohio's bioscience community

Welcome to the March edition of the BioOhio BioBulletin!

March Trivia focuses on America's favorite March activity: watching basketball. \$4B: Corporate losses due to unproductive workers during March Madness; \$9.2B: Estimated amount wagered on the 2016 NCAA tournament; 70M: Tournament brackets completed in 2016; 2X: It's 2 times easier to win back-to-back Mega Millions lotteries, buying one ticket both times, than it is to fill out a perfect bracket. It's true what they say... March really is madness.

In this issue

- * BioOhio Annual Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration
- * BioOhio Networking Social in Columbus

- * [Events Calendar](#)
- * [Membership](#)
- * [Ohio Bioscience News](#)
- * [Member Savings](#)
- * [Job Openings](#)
- * [Government Relations](#)



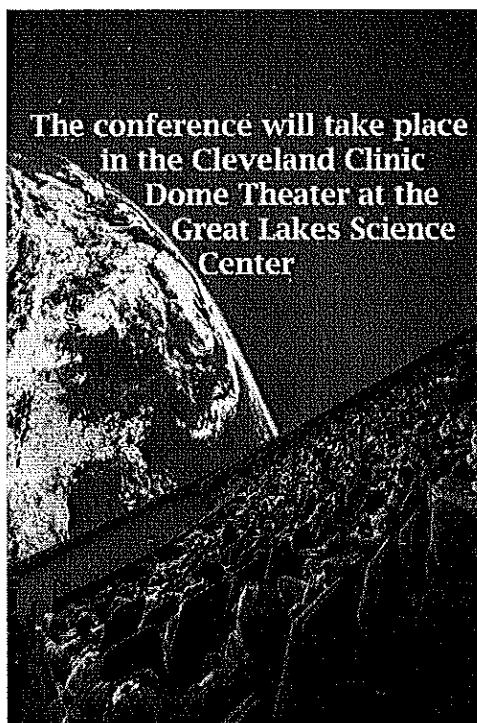
BioOhio is excited to celebrate our 30th Anniversary back in Cleveland where we were founded in 1987.

The 2017 BioOhio Annual Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration will be a celebration of statewide growth in all areas of bioscience, from medical devices, pharmaceuticals, lab equipment, and regenerative medicine, to agricultural compounds, alternative fuels, wellness products, clinical research, digital health, and wearables.

The two-day event kicks off with tours at Progressive Field, home of the American League Champs, the Cleveland Indians! Featuring stops at Heritage Park, the Right Field District & Corner Bar, and the Home Plate Club, as well as a look at the Batting Cages, Home Dugout, Warning Track, Press Box and Visitor's Clubhouse.



The Progressive Field Tours will be followed by a networking reception at Wild Eagle Saloon, featuring several self-serve draft beer walls and a variety of activities that will inspire fun competition like bocce ball, arcade games, pool, darts, skee-ball and more.



Our venue on the 24th, the Great Lakes Science Center, was established to make science, technology, engineering and math come alive; and during the Conference, it will come alive with excitement and success. Attendees will experience different parts of the Center as breakfast, networking breaks, lunch, and a reception move around this unique facility.

Come join us to celebrate what Ohio's bioscience community has become, engage with friends, make new connections, and set our sights on where the industry is headed.

[Click here](#) to view the agenda, and [click here](#) to register.

BioOhio Networking Social

May 18 in Columbus at



sponsored by



Join us to celebrate
BioOhio's 30th
Anniversary!



BioOhio.com/events/socials

2017 marks BioOhio's 30th anniversary, and we will be celebrating all year long! BioOhio's fun socials bring Ohio's bioscience players together for networking, talking shop, and getting to know one another in a casual atmosphere.

BioOhio's third social of the year will be held in Columbus at Woodland's Backyard. A local fixture, the venue features mini bowling, plenty of pool tables and arcade games, a spacious patio, and 30 taps pouring a rotating selection the finest craft and domestic brews.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres for all guests; 1 drink ticket for BioOhio members, and that includes employees of member organizations.

[Click here](#) to register.

Events Calendar

March 29 - Webinar: Bioskills and Its Role in Product Development
 March 29 - Webinar: "Microbiome: Hope or Hype"
 March 29-30 - Advanced Manufacturing Conference & Expo (*Attendance is free with the code CLEVELANDGUEST*)
 March 29 - MedDevCLE Meetup at the Advanced Design & Manufacturing Show (Cleveland)
 March 30 - Scientist Solutions presents A Life Science Vendor Show (Columbus)
 April 4-5 - BIO Legislative Day Fly-In 2017 (Washington, DC)
 April 5 - Ohio Health Information Technology Day 2017 (Columbus)
 April 6 - Neuroscience Symposium at Kent State University (Kent)
 April 19-20 - Course: From Sensors to Wearables to Health Monitoring (Cleveland)
 April 23-24 - BioOhio Annual Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration (Cleveland)
 April 24-28 - OHTec Tech Week 2017 (Cleveland)
 April 25-26 - The Medical Capital Innovation Competition (Cleveland)
 April 26-28 - MDMA 2017 Annual Meeting (Washington, DC) (*BioOhio Members are eligible for a \$100 discount off the nonmember rate*)
 May 2 - Regulatory Pathways and the Science of Sterilization Forum (Lebanon)
 May 2-5 - MedCon 2017 presented by Xavier Health (Cincinnati)
 May 4-6 - 2017 Derby Partnering Summit (Covington, KY) (*Students can attend the Derby Partnering Summit for free*)
 May 4-6 - Weinstein Cardiovascular Development Conference 2017 (Columbus)
 May 15-17 - National SBIR/STTR Conference 2017 (Washington, DC)
 May 17-18 - MedCity Invest 2017 (Chicago, IL)
 May 18 - BioOhio Networking Social (Columbus)
 May 31-June 1 - ChinaBio Partnering Forum (China)
 June 1 - ProMedica Innovations Summit (Toledo)
 June 15 - BioOhio FDA Regulatory Forum: Critical Medical Device Updates 2017 presented by R&Q (Cleveland)
 June 19-22 - BIO International Convention 2017 (San Diego, CA)
 June 26-27 - Cell Culture and Cell Therapy: Bioprocessing Conference (Philadelphia) (*BioOhio members are eligible for a 20% discount*)

If you're hosting a bioscience-related event and would like BioOhio's help in promoting it, let us know [here](#).

Membership

We are also pleased to welcome Square 1 Bank, Tedia Company, VetGraft, and student Griffin Rial as the newest members of BioOhio!

Thank you to the following companies who renewed their BioOhio membership this month: [Abeona Therapeutics](#), [Chubb Group of Insurance Companies](#), [Cleveland FES Center](#), [Crystal Diagnostics](#), [Image IQ](#), [Novo Nordisk](#), [PMC SMART Solutions](#), [Skoda Minotti](#), [Tunnell Consulting](#), [Valtronic](#), and BioOhio Board Member [Peter Kleinhenz](#).

As always, thanks to the entire [BioOhio member family](#) that continues to support our efforts.

Everything we do is driven by member requests. [Click here](#) to learn about the many benefits and resources available, whether you are currently a member or thinking about joining.

Ohio Bioscience News

From the BioOhio Blog

- [Ohio Legislative Update](#) for March 2017
- [Ohio Legislative Update Part 2](#) for March 2017
- [National Legislative Update](#) for March 2017
- [Valtronic Celebrates 35 Years](#) Improving Medical Devices
- The Expansion of the [R&D Tax Credit](#)
- [The CURES Act](#): What it is and what it means to you!

Ohio bioscience growing strong

- Aerpio Pharmaceuticals [raised \\$40M](#), completes [reverse merger](#)
- [P&C Pharma](#) helps patients easily consume medicine
- Cincinnati brain injury startup Sense Diagnostics nabs [\\$1.3M investment](#)
- Cardinal Health [bidding on Medtronic](#) medical-supplies business
- [Soin Neuroscience](#) to launch pharmaceutical business in Dayton
- Health IT startup InXite Health Systems to [add 163 new jobs](#)
- [Anatrace](#) [acquires Molecular Dimensions](#), a UK biotech firm
- Rekovo, a startup [turning rehab into digital art](#), lands huge customer
- [Xact Medical](#) uses robotics and ultrasound to guide and insert needles, more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)
- Airway Therapeutics just [raised \\$6.3M](#) for R&D to treat premature babies, more [here](#)
- Why [Navidea's looking ahead](#) to entrepreneurial life after [deal with Cardinal Health](#)
- [Eccrine Systems](#) makes list of 50 most promising startups in the world
- [TSS Technologies](#) to [add 150 jobs](#) in southwest Ohio

- What CoverMyMeds' success can teach older industries

Research and discovery continues in Ohio

- Abeona Therapeutics on WKYC3 (video)
- Trailhead Biosystems on Cleveland 19 News (video)
- Charles River and BioMotiv discuss creative business models in drug discovery
- Scott Novak to head new Battelle research program on opioid addiction and treatment
- BioMotiv launches Nynex Therapeutics, targets oncogenic proteins in cancer treatment
- First implant of Medtronic Harmony transcatheter pulmonary valve in clinical study at Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Genetesis identifies heart issues using magnetic fields
- Abeona Therapeutics receives EU Orphan Drug designation for gene therapy clinical trial
- Atumate bridges the gap between science & technology

Don't miss these stories

- CWRU School of Medicine ranked #1 by U.S. News & World Report
- Mike Hooven, founder of AtriCure exits the board, company names two new members
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital massive expansion, up to \$650M investment, 600 jobs
- SmartShape's founder just felt like walking (and walking and walking and walking...)
- BIO launches DrugCostFacts.org to show the facts on drug costs
- Hyland named a Best Company to Work For by Fortune magazine
- SciTech profile, Academic Expertise & Commercial Innovation in Central Ohio

Member Savings



Since 2001, The Center for Professional Innovation and Education ([CfPIE](#)) has embraced a singular goal-providing the highest quality education to bioscience professionals. Today, as the global leader in quality life sciences training, they offer the largest range of course options for professional development in the pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotechnology disciplines.

BioOhio has arranged a 15% discount on industry leading skills training courses offered by CfPIE. Courses include specialized education in pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotechnology disciplines. For specifics on exclusive savings available to you through CfPIE, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to read about all our member savings programs.

Job Openings

Tosoh SMD - Commodities Manager

Visit TosohAmerica.com to learn more, and [click here](#) to apply online.

Valtronic - Electrical Engineering Manager

Visit Valtronic.com to learn more, and send resumes to hруса@valtronic.com.

Do you have job openings at your company you would like to post in the BioOhio BioBulletin? Please email [Lauren Reitz](#) the job title and how to apply. BioOhio members only. Job postings will be displayed in two BioBulletins unless instructed to take it down.

Government Relations

As the Ohio affiliate of AdvaMed, BIO, MDMA and PhRMA, BioOhio participates in advocacy for issues that matter to our members, our industry and the health and prosperity of Ohio.

- [Ohio Legislative Update for March 2017](#)
- [Ohio Legislative Update Part 2 for March 2017](#)
- [National Legislative Update for March 2017](#)
- [US Army Regenerative Medicine Opportunity](#)
- [The CURES Act: What it is and what it means to you!](#)
- Our national partner BIO has launched [DrugCostFacts.org](#) to help healthcare stakeholders gain a better understanding of the true facts surrounding drug costs, spending and value.

Medical Devices & CMS Reimbursement

Action item: [G2G](#) & [AdvaMed](#) are collecting stories of challenges faced in obtaining CMS reimbursement for your medical devices, diagnostics and biotechnologies in order to get the Ensuring Patient Access to Critical Breakthrough Products Act re-introduced. For more information contact Liz Powell at lpowell@g2gconsulting.com.

Federal Fly-In Opportunities

Once a year, BIO hosts the [Legislative Day Fly-In](#), inviting biotechnology executives from across the country to come to Washington D.C. for a day and a half of legislative briefings and advocacy.

BIO's 2017 Fly-In will occur April 4-5, 2017, and we are looking forward to another great day of engaging with Members of Congress and their senior staff on the most important legislative issues facing the biotechnology industry.

[Click here](#) for more information and registration details. It is always our goal to make the BIO Fly-in as easy as possible for our visiting attendees; please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of the BioOhio BioBulletin. You received this because of your interest in Ohio bioscience, your organization is a BioOhio member, you have a connection to the bioscience industry, you've attended an event, or you've requested to engage with us. If you'd like to be more involved with BioOhio, reach out to any BioOhio staff member. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us anytime we can be of assistance. Thanks for your continued support.

John F. Lewis, Jr.
BioOhio, President & CEO
(614) 675-3686 x1262
jlewis@bioohio.com

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BioOhio, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, OH 43212

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From: Jack Gerard, API
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2017 10:54 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Harnessing Technology for Offshore Energy Development Paves Way for Jobs, Energy Security

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energy
tomorrow

July 6, 2017

Harnessing Technology for Offshore Energy Development Paves Way for Jobs, Energy Security

Dear Justin,

Eighty percent of U.S. voters support increased domestic oil and natural gas production, yet 94 percent of federal offshore acreage has been off limits to energy development. That discrepancy is not just a disconnect between Americans' preferences and government policy, it's a mismatch between domestic energy potential and future energy needs – and it has cost us greatly in job creation and energy security.

-9 That's why two recent actions by the Trump administration are such welcome news and help pave the way for what the president has called "the golden age of energy." The Department of the Interior resumed the permitting process for seismic surveys in the Atlantic – an essential step toward locating offshore oil and natural gas resources. The department also initiated the development of a new offshore oil and natural gas leasing program, following an executive order in April directing the department to consider areas the previous administration closed to development.

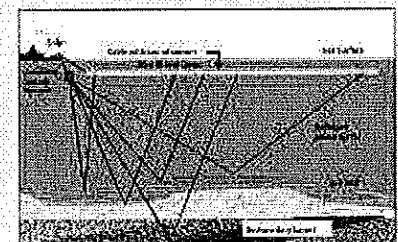
Harnessing seismic technology to locate energy resources in additional offshore areas is the first step toward safely and responsibly developing those resources, and that means jobs, consumer benefits and energy security. Like an ultrasound, seismic surveying uses air compression technology to allow scientists to produce detailed 3-dimensional maps to identify the safest, most efficient locations for energy exploration. Seismic surveys are commonly used not just by the oil and natural gas industry, but by the U.S. government, the National

The Science of Seismic

= 9

Seismic surveys are carefully conducted and are subject to a rigorous environmental analysis and permitting process to avoid impacts on the undersea marine environment. Now that the Interior Department has resumed the permitting process for seismic surveys in the Atlantic, we're one step closer to furthering the scientific research surrounding potential oil and natural gas resources in the Atlantic – a critical development in sustaining the U.S. energy renaissance and helping to keep energy affordable for American consumers and businesses. Learn more -9 about the science and safeguards behind seismic surveying.

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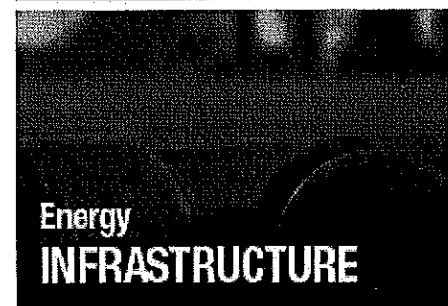
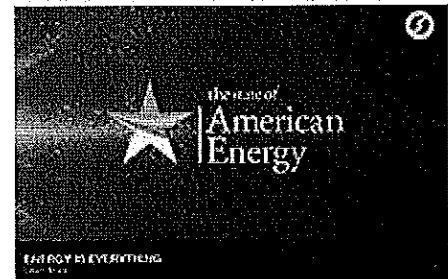
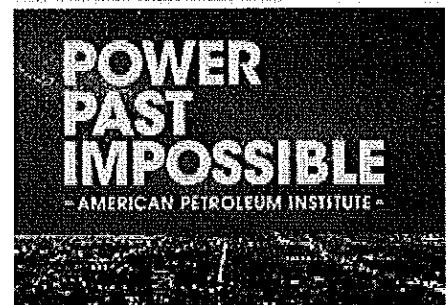
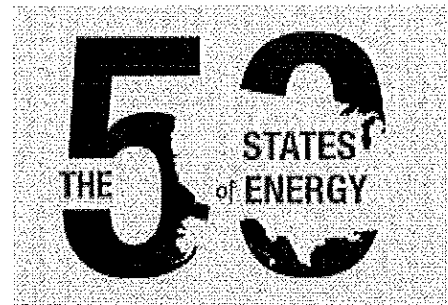
Science Foundation and the offshore wind industry for developing shipping channels and seafloor mapping. Advanced seismic survey technology has proven effective in safely uncovering new oil and natural gas resources. For instance, the Department of the Interior estimated 9.57 billion barrels of recoverable oil resources in the Gulf of Mexico in 1987. By 2011, advances in seismic surveying and other technology helped increase that estimate to 48.4 billion barrels of oil — a fivefold jump.

The U.S. oil and natural gas industry has a long history of safe operations that have strengthened U.S. energy security and contributed significantly to our nation's economic opportunities. Developing our nation's abundant offshore energy resources is a critical part of a forward-looking energy policy, and it's important that the next five-year leasing program includes the ability to explore for potential resources in the Arctic, Atlantic, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. Doing so would spur investment and economic activity, create thousands of jobs, and provide billions in government revenue.

Sincerely,



Jack Gerard
President and CEO
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9

THE *people* OF AMERICA'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

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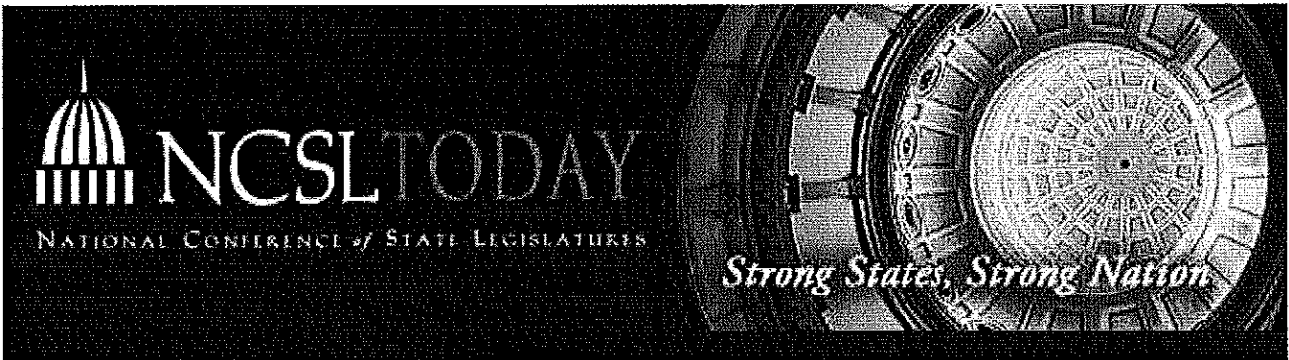
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TOP NEWS Sept. 7, 2017

15 states, D.C., sue Trump administration over ending DACA

Associated Press

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia sued the U.S. government Wednesday to block President Donald Trump's plan to end protection against deportation for young immigrants who New York's attorney general labeled the "best of America."

Washington state to test pay-by-the-mile as way to fund highways

Seattle Times

As cars get more fuel-efficient, gas-tax revenues won't nearly keep up with the costs of highway work that those taxes fund. Washington is launching a pilot project to test a new way of funding roads — a tax on every mile you drive.

Postal service wants big jump in stamp pricing

Associated Press

A 60 cent postage stamp? The U.S. Postal Service would have to boost prices for mailing letters and packages by nearly 20 percent — the biggest one-time increase in its history — to avoid bankruptcy and improve delivery service, an industry analysis says. **NCSL's Wendy Underhill** quoted.

Missouri lawmakers prepare to spar again over charter school expansion

St. Louis Post-Dispatch



FEATURED

Webinar Sept. 14: Planning for the evolving electric grid

As more energy customers become energy producers—implementing rooftop solar, energy storage, and smart devices to manage their energy use—the distribution grid is rapidly becoming insufficient, as are the policies that govern it.

NEW @ NCSL

In a hearing scheduled for next week, members of a House and Senate panel are scheduled to discuss the possibility of bringing school choice to other parts of the state. Currently, charter schools are limited to St. Louis and Kansas City.

Wisconsin lawmakers approve business tax cut, more money for school vouchers

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Republicans broke a more than two-month budget stalemate Wednesday, approving a property tax cut for businesses, more money for voucher school students with special needs and a new framework for regulating room rentals through websites like Airbnb.

Harvey has made Houston more immigrant-friendly, but for how long?

Governing

Although the disaster spurred federal, state and local authorities to put immigration enforcement on pause, many undocumented people are still fearful and likely to be left behind in the recovery.

State Legislatures magazine: The nuclear option (s)

Capitol to Capitol: 'Big week coming up'

Allowing purchases of out-of-state health insurance



Could occupational licensing slow recovery from Hurricane Harvey?

Hurricane Harvey may be over, but the recovery in Texas has just begun. In the short term, this means food, water, transportation and medical care, but the long journey to restoring normalcy will require reconstruction of buildings and repairing or replacing damaged electrical, plumbing and ventilation systems.



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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 7:33 AM
Subject: E-Clips for 10/24/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

10/24/2017



RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME CASES CAUSES NEED TO FIND JAIL SPACE

A jump in federal cases involving violent crimes and drug cases being prosecuted in Ohio has officials looking for more jail space.

OHIO COURT WON'T HEAR CASE IN SEIZURE OF EXOTIC ANIMALS

Another court has dealt a blow to an Ohio man who is trying to get his six tigers and several other exotic animals back from the state.

CORONER IDS SUSPECT KILLED AFTER FATAL SHOOTING POLICEMAN

A coroner has identified the Ohio man suspected of killing a policeman before he was fatally shot by another officer responding to a domestic disturbance at a home.



OHIO STATE COULD LEARN FROM FLORIDA'S SECURITY FOR RICHARD SPENCER'S SPEECH

If Ohio State University is ordered by a judge to host Richard Spencer, it might consider how a Florida university handled the white nationalist's visit on Thursday.

COURT SEEKS COMMENT ON RELEASING GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS IN POLICE SHOOTINGS

A proposed change in Ohio court rules to allow now-secret grand jury transcripts to be released to the public — targeted at cases in which police officers are not indicted in fatal shootings of suspects — has reached a new phase.

GOVERNOR CANDIDATES, DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS AGREE TO 2 DEBATES AFTER SPARRING

After disagreeing with party officials, Ohio's four Democratic candidates for governor apparently have agreed to a pair of debates in Columbus on Sunday.

DOES COLLEGE LEAD STUDENTS AWAY FROM RELIGION?

When it comes to religion, higher education has a bad reputation among some people.

EDITORIAL: TAX REFORM THREATENS HISTORIC BUILDINGS

As the GOP undertakes comprehensive tax reform, it should restore the Federal Historic Tax Credit, a program that preserves America's irreplaceable historic buildings, generates jobs and more than pays for itself.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

HOUSE DEFENSE LEADER AT WRIGHT PATT, SAYS AF PILOT SHORTAGE GROWING

The Air Force has been "hemorrhaging" pilots in a growing shortage that shows the impact sequestration has had on the military, a top congressional defense leader said.

CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS NEW TAX TO SUPPORT MUSEUM

The Clark County Historical Society will ask voters to approve a new property tax on Nov. 7 that the group says will preserve and showcase local artifacts for residents and visitors.

TIPP CITY SCHOOLS NOW PART OF OHIO ONLINE CHECKBOOK

The Tipp City Exempted Village Schools now are part of the Ohio Online Checkbook offering financial information on government entities across the state who choose to participate.

THE PLAIN DEALER

DO YOU WANT TO LOSE THIS TAX DEDUCTION? WILL YOUR CONGRESSMAN OR CONGRESSWOMAN FIGHT IT?

The Senate paved the way for tax reform with a tax-cutting budget late last week, and Americans could see the actual tax-reform bill soon -- a chance to know what's in and out.

SEN. SHERROD BROWN CALLS WHITE HOUSE AIDE, ADVISER 'WHITE SUPREMACISTS,' WHITE HOUSE SAYS THAT'S SLANDEROUS

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio called presidential adviser Steve Bannon a white supremacist and said Stephen Miller, a senior policy adviser to President Donald Trump, "seems to be" one, too.

PRISONS ARE IMPORTANT PIECES IN OHIO GERRYMANDERING: OUT OF LINE - IMPACT 2017 AND BEYOND

Ohio's clever gerrymandering - the act of drawing congressional district lines for political gain - goes beyond chasing like-minded voters.

EDITORIAL: HEY, CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK JACKSON AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ARMOND BUDISH, TELL US WHAT YOU OFFERED AMAZON!

The man who leads Amazon.com also owns The Washington Post, where the motto this year is "Democracy dies in darkness," so we find it astounding that Northeast Ohio's elected leaders have shrouded the region's bid for Amazon's second headquarters in darkness.

THE ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI AREA COLLEGE PRESIDENTS ASK CONGRESS TO PROTECT DREAMERS

Several local university presidents have signed a letter asking Congress to permanently protect students known as Dreamers. Those students' legal immigrant status was put in jeopardy when President Trump rescinded the Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in September.

SHERROD BROWN: I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING TRUMP ADVISERS RACIST

The White House blasted Sen. Sherrod Brown over his comments Sunday that a top adviser to President Trump "seems to be" a white supremacist and other staffers are sympathetic to such hate groups.

CantonRep.com
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS TRYING TO REDUCE CANCER RISKS

As cancer awareness increases, departments have sought grants for latest equipment and have emphasized safe practices to reduce hazards.

THE BLADE

STATEWIDE DATABASE OF VIOLENT OFFENDERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

A statewide database of violent offenders proposed in the wake of last year's murder of Sierah Joughin in Fulton County would be strictly for law enforcement eyes under revisions made recently by Ohio lawmakers.

ROSSFORD APPROVES MEDICAL MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

The sale and cultivation of medical marijuana could be legalized in Rossford after a moratorium expires.

TOLEDO COUNCILMAN SYKES PLEADS NOT GUILTY ON ASSAULT CHARGES

A Toledo city councilman and candidate for re-election in next month's general election appeared Monday before a Toledo Municipal Court judge and pleaded not guilty to assault.

TOLEDO'S HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM SEASON COMES TO END

Toledo officially ended the 2017 harmful algal bloom season Monday after nine consecutive days with cooler temperatures and no microcystin detected in raw lake water at the city's intake crib.

EDITORIAL: WE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH FOR DRUG FIGHT

In the fight against the raging opioid epidemic in Ohio, every professional on the front lines will say he is underarmed.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, October 30, 2017
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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

Controlling Board Approves Medicaid Funding, Discusses Waivers

DeWine Unveils 12-Point Plan To Combat Opioid Epidemic

Local Leaders Continue Fight Against Opioid Epidemic

Ohio, Japanese Business Leaders Look To Strengthen Ties

LSC Director Urges Probe Over Hite Sexual Harassment Complaint

Democratic Gubernatorial Hopefuls Debate Opioids, Healthcare, Tax Reform

Justice O'Neill Announces Intent To File For Democratic Gubernatorial Nomination; Yost Urges Resignation

Progressive Insurance, Amazon Top List of Projects Approved For State Tax Credits; \$122 Million In Investments Expected

ODE Pushes For More Business-School Collaborations; UA Launches Global Online Course; Cleveland Expands Computer Science Offerings...

Supreme Court Dismisses Consumer Group's Complaint In Duke Energy Case; Dynegy Merger Announced

Report Examines Poverty, Assistance Programs In Ohio; Study Rates State Low On Opportunity For Black Children...

Politics Notebook: Speaker Rosenberger Decides Against Auditor Run; Female Policymakers Talk Women in Government at OSU Event...

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Volume #86, Report #209 -- Monday, October 30, 2017

Controlling Board Approves Medicaid Funding, Discusses Waivers

Controlling Board members released \$264 million in funding for the Department of Medicaid Monday after some lawmakers reiterated the importance of the administration seeking waivers included in the budget.

The money, which will leverage federal funding for a total of more than \$900 million in Fiscal Year 2018, is vital for the Medicaid system to function effectively, administration officials said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 27, 2017)

Medicaid Director Barbara Sears told the board that, without the money, it would require rate cuts to providers of 16% or, more likely, the program would just stop paying once it ran out of money for the year.

"To my knowledge, it would be an unprecedented reduction," Director Sears told Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark).

The requirement that the administration go before the board for the funding was included in the budget (HB 49) as a way to ensure the administration followed through on certain actions, including the process of requesting waivers making changes to the program.

Those waiver requests, one from the Department of Insurance to exempt the state from certain requirements of the Affordable Care Act and another from ODM to impose work requirements on some Medicaid enrollees, are expected to be submitted early next year, said state Budget Director Tim Keen.

A third item included in the budget, to impose premiums on certain Medicaid enrollees, is on hold for now as the General Assembly figures out the fate of the Healthy Ohio program. That proposal was included in the budget and vetoed by Gov. John Kasich. The House voted to override the veto but the Senate has not acted on it. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 29, 2017)

Mr. Keen said the administration wanted to wait on the premium waiver because of the uncertainty with the Healthy Ohio waiver and the fate of the Affordable Care Act in general.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said he would have preferred withholding the funding until the waiver requests were submitted, but that the administration is working in good faith.

"I would rather wait until you guys have filed those until we did this, but I trust you both," he said. "You're not just throwing the waiver in, but you're designing a waiver that's going to work and is going to pass."

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) asked what value there was in having the administration come before the board to request the money.

"I guess what I'm concerned about is having a process that adds more uncertainty to a system that has been on pins and needles," he said.

Director Keen said the administration is always willing to discuss the program with lawmakers.

"The administration, from the governor on down, is prepared to talk about the Medicaid program, how it operates, who it serves," he said.

The board also approved \$23.2 million over the biennium in funding for the Department of Commerce for liquor operating services. The request comes as the department revamped its inventory system and changed how its warehouses work. The new system replaced one that had been in place for 40 years and did not connect with the retail system.

"The new system gives us visibility into any inventory in the state from the time it enters the warehouse until the retail level," said Gerry O'Neil, director of agency operations for the Division of Liquor Control.

Rep. Cera encouraged the department to be careful when deciding the fate of smaller retailers along the state's borders.

"If they are eliminated due to lower sales, I know in my part of the state, West Virginia is going to benefit from that," he said.

The board approved a total of 66 items. A request from the State Highway Patrol for funding for a tower removal project in Steubenville was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$603,692 - Marion Technical College - for a workforce-based training and equipment project.
- \$3 million - Development Services Agency - for a contract associated with construction at 118 West Fourth Street in Cincinnati.
- \$1.5 million - DSA - for roadwork improvements to support Sidecat LLC in New Albany.

- \$14 million - Department of Education - for the Ohio's Striving Readers grant program and literacy programs.
- \$3.4 million - Department of Natural Resources - for emergency improvements to the dam at Lake White State Park.
- \$2.7 million - Department of Public Safety - for disaster relief stemming from severe storms in July.
- \$4 million - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace windows at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.
- \$9.3 million - DRC - for building renovations at several facilities around the state.
- \$3.9 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for specialized design services for various projects.
- \$1.5 million - Department of Youth Services - for a bathroom project at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility.

DeWine Unveils 12-Point Plan To Combat Opioid Epidemic

The state's top law enforcement official on Monday offered up an ultimatum to the drug companies and distributors he said are at the root of Ohio's opioid epidemic.

Attorney General Mike DeWine announced he sent letters to five pharmaceutical manufacturers and three drug distributors offering the companies 30 days to come forward to pay for their role in flooding the state with highly addictive prescription painkillers.

"I intend to do everything in my power to make them come to the table and make them pay for what they have done," Mr. DeWine said during a news conference. "There must be justice."

If the companies fail to comply with AG DeWine's request, he warned he will "escalate." However, he declined to elaborate on the steps he plans to take next.

"I want the drug companies to wonder what my next step is going to be," he said, before adding, "I'm mad, and I think every Ohioan should be mad."

Money generated from a settlement would pay for a 12-step plan to combat the opioid epidemic. Mr. DeWine, a Republican gubernatorial candidate, has dubbed the plan "Recovery Ohio."

The first step is to pass legislation that would allow the governor to declare a public health emergency across the state or in targeted areas. Doing so, AG DeWine said,

would allow for the distribution of resources to local entities and an expedited process for licensing professionals in fields such as social work.

The second step calls for the creation of a 21st Century law enforcement data infrastructure that allows for more efficient sharing of information between the nearly 1,000 law enforcement agencies in Ohio.

That portion of the plan would cost about \$10 million and allow the state to take on what Mr. DeWine described as "highly organized and highly efficient" Mexican drug cartels.

"To go against them we need better data," he said.

Also in an effort to curtail drug cartels, AG DeWine called for an expansion of proven drug task force models. He estimated that portion of the plan would cost \$4.5 million.

At an anticipated cost of up to \$10 million, Mr. DeWine's plan also includes the expansion of specialized drug courts by creating another 60 across the state. More than 20 counties have no such specialized docket, he said.

Two portions of AG DeWine's plan would require cooperation with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The first calls for the creation of a pilot project through the BWC's Safety Grants program that would allow employees with substance abuse problems to seek treatment through employers and keep their jobs.

A second pilot program would incentivize employers to hire individuals in recovery. The BWC would cover a certain percentage of the employee's wages and indemnify the employer from any rate increases were the individual to relapse and cause a work-related accident.

AG DeWine said not only is the opioid epidemic resulting in the deaths of at least 14 Ohioans every day, it is also a burden on the economy because employers cannot find enough workers to pass drug screenings.

"It is a problem so grave it is fundamentally slowing the growth of jobs in the state of Ohio," he said.

The most expensive portion of the plan would double the substance abuse treatment capacity in the state.

Other portions of the proposal call for:

- The expansion of the workforce of critical specialists.
- The creation of a cabinet-level position focused solely on the opioid crisis.
- The implementation of K-12 drug prevention education in all the state's schools.

- A statewide drug prevention media campaign.
- The expansion of early intervention programs that target families and children in foster care.

The five pharmaceutical manufacturers Mr. DeWine is seeking to put pressure on are Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions, Teva, Johnson & Johnson, and Allergan. They are each defendants in a lawsuit he filed in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

The three distributors - Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Amerisource Bergen - were not named in the lawsuit. However, AG DeWine did not rule out legal action against the companies.

"What the drug companies come forward and say they are willing to do must be commensurate with the damage they have caused," he said.

Local Leaders Continue Fight Against Opioid Epidemic

While Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday was detailing his plans to hold drug companies accountable for the opioid epidemic, local governments continued their effort to do the same.

Toledo on Monday became the latest local government to file a lawsuit against drug companies. It now joins Dayton, Parma, Lorain and Cincinnati, along with Columbiana, Cuyahoga and Licking counties, on that front.

Toledo's lawsuit names 24 drug manufacturers and distributors.

"We have had enough of our community members suffering or dying of overdoses from the unfair distribution and marketing practices of these addictive drugs. The time is now to hold drug manufacturers and distributors accountable for their actions," Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson said.

In filing its lawsuit against manufacturers Purdue Pharma LP, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Cephalon, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and distributors McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen Corp., Cuyahoga County cited increasing opioid deaths that are anticipated to top out at 775 this year.

"Cuyahoga County has been hit terribly hard by the opioid epidemic. In fact, we are on track to lose almost 800 people this year due to drug overdoses. This tragic epidemic is costing lives - our families are losing loved ones every day. In 2016, we lost more people to this epidemic than to deaths from homicides, suicides, and auto accidents combined," Executive Armond Budish said.

"But it is also costing taxpayers. This year alone, we have had to bear the burden of increased costs to the Medical Examiner's office, increased costs of supplying drugs like Narcan to save victims of overdose, and additional cost of children in the foster care system because of a parent's death or drug addiction. This is an emergency. There is a direct correlation between the over prescription of opioid pain pills and addiction and subsequent deaths of our mothers, fathers, loved ones."

Added Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley: "We need to hold the drug manufacturers and distributors accountable whose corporate strategy was to push these opiates into our community for the sake of profit. They are drug pushers on a national level."

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, applauded Cuyahoga County's decision to file the lawsuit.

"The big drug companies said opioids weren't addictive and got Ohioans hooked. A manmade epidemic that these billion-dollar companies created overnight is one our communities will spend years trying to reverse. And our local leaders are struggling to provide resources for those who need treatment and for our first responders who are on the front lines of this epidemic," she said.

"Our taxpayers, communities and families suffering due to addiction deserve justice. I applaud Cuyahoga County for taking steps to hold accountable those responsible for this devastating epidemic."

Meanwhile, officials in Summit County declared a state of emergency in response to the opioid crisis. The county's action led to renewed calls from Democratic lawmakers for Gov. John Kasich to declare a state of emergency to combat the epidemic.

In a letter to Gov. Kasich, Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said the drug problem in the state requires "bold leadership and decisive action."

"Without a comprehensive statewide strategy that recognizes Ohio's opioid epidemic as the public emergency that it is, we run the risk of failing even more Ohioans and continuing to fall further behind the nation in economic growth and prosperity," she said. "Healthy, safe communities are the foundation for stability, growth and development, but as we've seen over the last six years, we continue to tread water in Ohio."

In a separate letter, Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) called on Gov. Kasich to tap into the rainy day fund to provide local communities with the resources needed to fight the epidemic.

"Families are struggling with addiction, children's services are stretched thin and Ohio businesses are finding it harder to fill jobs. Our opioid crisis is crushing our bottom line," she said. "What companies want to move into a community overrun with overdoses? How can our kids focus on schoolwork knowing there is trouble at home? The opioid

epidemic has far-reaching consequences that will only begin to be alleviated when we make real investments in treatment and prevention."

AG DeWine on Monday laid out a 12-point plan to combat the opioid epidemic, which includes a call for legislation to be passed allowing the governor to declare a public health emergency statewide or in specific areas. (*See separate story*)

Ohio, Japanese Business Leaders Look To Strengthen Ties

Ohio on Monday became the only state a key Japanese economic organization has visited more than once, with its members saying the Buckeye State is the most important in the nation as far as investments and trade are concerned.

Gov. John Kasich, JobsOhio and business leaders hosted the group known as Keidanren to discuss deepening the economic relationship between Japan and the U.S.

There are more than 500 Japanese-owned companies in Ohio, directly employing about 7,300 workers. About one million Americans are directly and indirectly connected to Japanese companies.

"That's not enough," Gov. Kasich said in addressing Ohio business heads and Keidanren members at a Statehouse lunch.

His remarks followed an hour-and-a-half-long meeting with Japanese business leaders about how Ohio's economic goals line up with theirs.

"They have a lot of exciting things they're thinking about (and) working on," said Gov. Kasich, who visited Japan earlier this year. The meeting allowed the state to "see if there's a way for us to deepen this relationship by bringing all of our assets and personnel who can really commit to having a more exciting world including a more exciting America and a more exciting Ohio."

The governor said the imaging breakthroughs of Japanese company Canon can make a difference in health care screenings while financial security work being done in the country can protect Americans as well.

Ohio can offer expertise from universities, smart cities, Fortune 500 companies and more to Japanese businesses looking to build on their products and research in America, he said.

"Here in the state, we all have to think about...the business partners," Gov. Kasich said. "How can we deepen these relationships? How do we think about this in a way that's more dramatic than the way we think about it today? How can we think outside of the box? How can we bring other resources to bear in terms of flourishing this terrific relationship that we have?"

He said he also urged business leaders from both countries during the closed meeting to not get "weighted down by the bureaucracy" of government and instead consider working within the private sector as well to make partnerships and projects happen.

JobsOhio has already made a major impact on the Japanese economic group's perception of Ohio and the role it plays in the American and world economies, its Chairman Sadayuki Sakakibara said.

The group opened a Washington D.C. base in 2015 and has since visited with 14 states to discuss economic partnerships, he added.

"Ohio is the only state we visited twice. This is a testament to our belief that...your state is the most important state in the Japanese business community," he said.

Although trade was once an issue between the two countries, Japanese companies now make \$420 billion in contributions to the U.S economy, Mr. Sakakibara said. Those investments have led to 860,000 direct employees.

"No more friction exists," he said. "We have established (a) win-win relationship."

Following lunch, Mr. Sakakibara, who is the senior advisor for Toray Industries, was joined by other business leaders for a roundtable discussion on the Ohio-Japan investment relationship and how to expand job creation.

LSC Director Urges Probe Over Hite Sexual Harassment Complaint

Further disciplinary investigation should be conducted following allegations of unwanted sexual advances by a former state senator who has since resigned, the director of the Legislative Service Commission stated in a letter to Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina).

LSC Director Mark Flanders made the recommendation as he released details of a report on the allegations involving former Senator Cliff Hite and an agency employee.

Mr. Hite abruptly resigned his 1st Senate District seat Oct. 17 as details of the allegations circulated internally. He subsequently posted an apology on social media, and the circumstances have prompted Sen. Obhof to call for mandatory sexual harassment training. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 18, 2017)

The report, which details the employee's recollections of Mr. Hite's behavior dating to their first encounter in August, indicates the Office of Legislative Inspector General is already reviewing the case and that further evidence may be found on surveillance camera recordings from the Senate building and parking garage.

Nevertheless, Mr. Flanders, in a letter to Sen. Obhof dated Oct. 26, stated that further action would be prudent.

"The behavior described by the complainant LSC employee and the effects she reports it had on her are extremely serious matters," Mr. Flanders wrote. "As LSC director, I have a responsibility to maintain a work environment in which all employees are treated with respect and are free from harassment of any kind. The described behavior is incompatible with such a work environment."

Mr. Flanders said he was sending the report to the Senate president "in case any disciplinary investigation can be done."

"I feel such an investigation is warranted," he added.

The internal LSC review and interview with the complainant, who was not named, details several incidents in which the lawmaker allegedly requested sex acts, bought her flowers, and made other untoward advances.

The incidents began with a first encounter on the Statehouse steps leading to the garage, was followed by requests to "friend" the lawmaker on Facebook that she found "inappropriate," and escalated with repeated visits to her office, the report states. Conversations during those visits included details of the lawmaker's sex life and other advances that made the LSC employee "extremely uncomfortable and nervous."

The report stated that Mr. Hite persisted repeatedly even though the complainant had rebuffed his advances on several occasions.

"Throughout the end of August and through September, Complainant stated that the Senator would come to her office and ask if she had changed her mind. He stopped in whenever he was in town, including on non-session days, and when not dressed for work at the Statehouse," the report states. "He asked her to come to his condo and also physically hugged her. He invited her to dinner and asked her to accompany him to a reception."

The LSC employee reported that the circumstances made her physically ill due to stress, resulting in her missing days of work. She described her condition as a "stress ball," saying she was unable to eat and sleep.

Mr. Hite responded to the allegations in writing, saying that he disagreed "with many representations in the complaint, some of which I don't believe happened, were misunderstood, or portrayed inaccurately," but "going through them point by point would not be a productive exercise."

"I acknowledge that some of what I said during our conversations was inappropriate discussion for a married man, father and grandfather," he added. "But I thought that the conversational tone, as well as the mild flirtation, was welcome and reciprocated. "I did not understand or believe that my comments and actions were offensive to the complainant, and it is now deeply troubling to read that she felt otherwise."

Democratic Gubernatorial Hopefuls Debate Opioids, Healthcare, Tax Reform

The opioid crisis and healthcare continued to be major discussion topics Sunday during a debate between four Democratic gubernatorial candidates.

Speaking at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, the four hopefuls generally stressed the importance of equipping Ohioans with well-paying jobs and equal access to affordable medical care.

The evening debate featuring former state Rep. Connie Pillich, Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), former U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton, and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley was a Q&A format, with little interplay between candidates who generally concurred on most issues.

The debate, which was part of an annual gathering of Ohio Democrats, occurred amidst continued speculation over two non-participants who remain potential entrants into the gubernatorial field.

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill on Sunday said he plans to enter the race for the Democratic nomination with a caveat. (*See separate story*) And Consumer Financial Protection Bureau chief Richard Cordray remains mum about whether he'll join the field.

During the debate, each candidate touted their roots from hardworking Ohio families in making their case to be the Democrat to take on one of four Republicans currently running for the job. Attorney General Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Jon Husted, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) are in the mix for the GOP nomination.

Regarding the opioid epidemic, Ms. Whaley mentioned her city's lawsuit filed earlier this year against major drug companies. "The most important thing we can do is hold the drug companies accountable," she said.

Sen. Schiavoni said a lawsuit, although a good step, will take years to play out in the court system. Instead, he emphasized his bill (SB 154) to allocate 10% of Ohio's "rainy day" reserve funds toward boosting local resources and education.

Ms. Sutton, meanwhile, called the issue "our hurricane" and said she'd support the declaration of a state of emergency. Suing the companies "is not enough," she said. "We have got to get at this with every resource we can muster."

Ms. Pillich called the addiction onslaught the "largest health crisis in this century" and emphasized education and prevention. "My first line of defense is to make sure somebody has a good paying job so they have the dignity of work," she said, adding it gives people something to fight for.

The candidates were similarly aligned on health care, each voicing support for defending Medicaid expansion dollars and supporting rural hospitals. Asked about women's access

to healthcare and birth control, the candidates doubled down on their support for Planned Parenthood and equal access.

Ms. Sutton vowed to veto any bill cutting or restricting healthcare access or abortion rights. "I will not hesitate to stand up against it, to lead the march down the street, to fight back at these attempts to undercut women," she said.

Ms. Pillich described her experience receiving services and volunteering at a Planned Parenthood clinic. "I really do trust women to make their own medical decisions," she said. "I trust doctors to know how to practice medicine and I don't trust the legislature with either of those things."

Ms. Whaley said things have recently been "rough" at the Statehouse in the area of women's rights - alluding to the recent resignation of a state lawmaker following a sexual harassment complaint.

She also said her first order of business would be to install a medical doctor as the head of the Department of Health.

Sen. Schiavoni said he's spent nine years in the Senate defending abortion rights and other critical health issues. "As governor...if any of that stuff crossed my desk it would be vetoed in a second," he said, "because that's what I've done in the Senate every single day since I've started."

The candidates made several critiques of GOP leaders in Columbus, who they accused of slashing local government funding to fund tax loopholes for the wealthy. They were critical of the current administration, saying it has prioritized courting large development projects while neglecting small and mid-sized communities.

Asked about tax reform, Ms. Whaley pledged to make JobsOhio a transparent organization to allow more accountability over how tax dollars are being spent. Sen. Schiavoni voiced displeasure of tax loopholes and expressed interest in minimizing brain drain.

Ms. Sutton, on the other hand, emphasized supporting small businesses and questioned the effectiveness of the small business tax deduction. Ms. Pillich said Republicans are giving away tax breaks at the expense of local government funding.

Justice O'Neill Announces Intent To File For Democratic Gubernatorial Nomination; Yost Urges Resignation

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill on Sunday announced he will file for the gubernatorial race - a move that brings forth a host of questions for the potential candidate, who in the near term plans to retain his judicial post.

Mr. O'Neill launched his prospective campaign at an event in Chagrin Falls where he voiced support for marijuana legalization, with related tax revenue to boost health and addiction services, and raising minimum wage.

Saying he plans to retain his court seat for the time being, he criticized the Ohio Democratic Party as having lost its way as the "party of ideas."

"If we want to win in 2018 we need new ideas, and if there is going to be a revolution in thinking let it begin right here," he said in his prepared remarks. "It is with humility and a great sense of enthusiasm that I announce today I intend to file petitions to be placed on the Democratic ballot for the office of governor of Ohio in February 2018."

Candidates must file by Feb. 7, 2018 - 90 days before the primary election.

Justice O'Neill, who won his seat on the high court despite the lack of any campaign finances to speak of, has previously floated the idea of running for governor unless Richard Cordray, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, enters the race. He renewed that vow Sunday, pledging to drop out if Mr. Cordray jumps in.

His announcement triggered questions about a sitting Supreme Court judge openly campaigning for another elected office.

He said he plans not to fundraise and in a statement issued after his announcement added he intends to adhere to Rule 4.5 of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, which dictates that a judge shall resign from office upon becoming a candidate for a nonjudicial elective office in a primary or general election.

"I agree with that rule," he said. "And I will become a candidate pursuant to R.C. 3501.01 when I am certified for the ballot in February of 2018. I will step down at that time. To do so any earlier is unfair to the 2 million Ohioans who elected me."

Responding to the announcement, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor issued a statement saying there is no mechanism for the court to force Justice O'Neill to recuse himself from pending cases.

"I encourage Justice O'Neill to consider his future course of conduct in light of his oath of judicial office and the ethical obligations imposed upon all judges of this state, which are designed to protect the interests of litigants, the public's trust and confidence in the fair administration of justice, and the institution of the judiciary as a separate branch of government," she said.

Hours after Justice O'Neill's announcement, the four current candidates for the Democratic nomination debated on a Columbus stage. They include former state Rep. Connie Pillich, Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), former U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton, and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. (*See separate story*)

None referenced the justice's desire to enter the race, but Sen. Schiavoni in a post-debate statement said Mr. O'Neill's departure would leave the high court's only Democratic seat to be filled by Republican Gov. John Kasich.

"Any Democrat who is serious about running for governor would attend the two debates we're having today to discuss real issues in front of thousands of voters," Sen. Schiavoni said. "Instead, Justice O'Neill has chosen to pull a press stunt on the other side of the state."

Auditor Dave Yost, who is running for the Republican attorney general nomination, issued his own statement Monday calling for Justice O'Neill's immediate resignation.

"The judiciary is designed to be non-political and independent, and is one of the few remaining institutions in our society that is generally accepted to be fair and impartial," Mr. Yost said. "Mr. O'Neill owes it to Ohio to step down now that he has announced his candidacy and begun making promises a judge is not allowed to make."

During his remarks, Justice O'Neill laid out an array of policy objectives. He said taxing legal marijuana would generate \$200 million in sales taxes along with another \$100 million freed up by releasing all non-violent inmates who are serving time tied to marijuana violations.

Additionally, he said he would push for a \$15 per hour minimum wage, place solar panels on every Ohio government building, and give state income tax breaks to homeowners for solar panel adoption. He also voiced support for a high speed electric train system connecting the state's three largest cities and for a governor's commission to reduce college tuition.

Progressive Insurance, Amazon Top List of Projects Approved For State Tax Credits; \$122 Million In Investments Expected

In a move the state says will retain and help create thousands of jobs, the Tax Credit Authority on Monday granted one of the largest tax breaks of the year - valued at an estimated \$17.4 million - to Progressive Casualty Insurance Company.

The company, one of 10 to receive tax credits based on promises of job growth, plans to expand its Highland Heights operations in Cuyahoga County, according to the state. Under the terms of the agreement, the company expects to create 900 full-time positions generating \$63 million in new annual payroll, while retaining \$819.1 million in payroll.

In turn, the TCA board granted the insurance company a 2.35%, 12-year Job Creation Tax Credit.

Online retailing giant Amazon was also a key recipient of a state incentive as the company looks to expand its footprint in the state with a Fulfillment Services location in Euclid that's projected to entail 1,000 full-time positions and \$27.7 million in annual

payroll. As part of Ohio's enticement to the commerce firm, the state panel approved a 1.35%, 10-year JCTC valued at \$3.9 million if all the hiring goals are met.

All told, the projects approved Monday are anticipated to create 2,828 new jobs and \$131 million in payroll, retain 10,291 existing positions and spur more than \$122 million in investments across Ohio.

Other projects awarded credits include (Estimated foregone revenue in parentheses):

Champlain Enterprises, LLC of North Olmsted (Cuyahoga Co.) plans 81 new jobs generating \$6.7 million in payroll and the retention of \$5.5 million in payroll with its expansion. The majority owner of CommutAir, operating as United Express, received a 1.944%, nine-year tax credit (\$1.1 million).

Le Tote, Inc. of the Village of Obetz (Franklin Co.) expects to create 400 full-time positions generating \$10.5 million in payroll with its new location. The TCA awarded the membership-based personal styling service a 1.261%, eight-year JCTC (\$990,000).

MCPc, Inc. of Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.) plans to create 150 full-time positions, generate \$6.9 million in new payroll and retain \$14.5 million in existing payroll under its project. The provider of technology solutions for logistics and security received a 1.213%, eight-year tax credit (\$650,000).

Detroit Manufacturing Systems Toledo and Non-Automotive, LLC of Toledo (Lucas Co.) expects to create 120 full-time positions generating \$5.9 million in payroll while retaining \$578,738 in payroll with its new project. The manufacturer of injection-molded interior trim components such as cockpits for automotive brands was awarded a 1.461%, six-year JCTC (\$519,000).

MetalX, LLC of the Village of Delta (Fulton Co.) plans 75 new jobs entailing \$3.9 million in payroll with its new location. The TCA granted the scrap metal recycler a 1.448%, seven-year tax credit (\$385,000).

Capital Energy LLC of Westerville (Delaware Co.) expects to create 48 positions generating \$3.2 million in new payroll while retaining \$1.3 million in payroll under its expansion plans. The retail electric service provider for residential and commercial markets received a 1.537%, seven-year JCTC (\$305,000).

Adept Marketing Outsourced LLC of Grandview Heights (Franklin Co.) plans 35 new positions generating \$2.5 million in payroll and also the retention of \$2.5 million in payroll under its expansion plans. The marketing and communications firm received a 1.484%, seven-year JCTC (\$260,000).

FloQast, Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) expects to create 19 jobs entailing \$1.3 million in payroll while retaining \$268,520 in payroll as a result of the company's expansion project. The TCA granted the business accounting software design company a 1.373%, six-year tax credit (\$100,000).

ODE Pushes For More Business-School Collaborations; UA Launches Global Online Course; Cleveland Expands Computer Science Offerings...

Through the partnerships created in the name of the new SuccessBound Initiative, which is backed by a New Skills for Youth Grant, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria said students can be engaged and inspired to follow career paths they may not know exist.

"The success of our students is fundamental to our future as a society. When we can connect education to real careers for students, they're more engaged in their learning," Mr. DeMaria said at a recent conference. "Together, we can help students find their paths and passions while building a future workforce for businesses."

ODE defines SuccessBound students as those that take active roles in planning their future, considering what education and training is needed to reach their goals, dedicate themselves to long-term goals, and earn free college credits or training while in high school.

SuccessBound schools, meanwhile, research and response to the economic needs of their communities, provide a variety of education pathways, encourage work-based learning experiences, and encourage students to plan for future careers, ODE said.

Businesses that are part of the initiative should collaborate with skills to develop the local workforce, invest in educational pathways and work-based learning experiences, and community with schools about the career skills students must have when they graduate.

Online Course: The University of Akron recently launched The Global Classroom, which will simulcast a political science course on four continents.

The first of its kind, the online classroom will use real-time video-conferencing and data sharing technology, the university said. Faculty and students in each of the four locations will be able to interact and exchange information.

The class, which will go live in January, will feature weekly guest speakers from each of the locations. Other participants are Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado in São Paulo, Brazil, University of Pretoria in South Africa, and Le Mans Université in France.

"As much as any time in our history, we need to encourage and facilitate international engagement among our youth," UA President Matthew J. Wilson said. "This initiative gives Ohio students an opportunity to directly interact with peers whose political experiences and perceptions may be vastly different from their own."

Grant: Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District plan to expand their efforts to teach computer science with a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Through the CSforAll program, the schools train teachers in computer science to ensure that courses are available for every student. CSU and CMSD said the three-year grant will provide team support to enhance the pilot project that's currently funded by the Cleveland Foundation.

"Computer science is fundamentally re-defining how we live in society and every student will need to be well versed in the discipline to properly meet their educational and career goals," said Nigamanth Sridhar, a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and dean of the College of Graduate Studies at CSU.

"Through our partnership with the CMSD and with the support of the Cleveland Foundation and NSF, we will be able to help Cleveland's next generation receive the educational training necessary to succeed."

Election: Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake has been elected chair of the Association of American Universities.

As chair, Mr. Drake will serve as spokesman for the organization and represent AAU when working with federal policy makers to further the group's agenda that's focused on support for research institutions.

"Dr. Michael Drake will be an excellent chair," AAU President Mary Sue Coleman said. "He's shown outstanding leadership for Ohio State and the state of Ohio and serves as an example for all of our universities as they fulfill their missions in research, undergraduate and graduate education, economic development and community service."

Mr. Drake is also currently serving as chair of the Council of Presidents of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and was a founding member of the American Talent Initiative, according to AAU. He also holds roles with the University Innovation Alliance, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Big Ten Conference.

Brief: Project AWARE Ohio is providing tips for engaging families in the educational process in its latest brief.

Developed by OSU's College of Education and Human Ecology, the nine-page brief details what schools can do to involve parents in their students' education and provides resources to create an action plan to engage families to support the mental and behavioral health of children.

Fundraising: Youngstown State University is embarking on the largest fundraising campaign in its history, with plans to collect \$100 million.

The institution and the YSU foundation last week launched the public phase of the "We See Tomorrow" campaign. More than \$51 million had already been raised prior to the public launch.

"We start the public phase of this campaign at a time of great momentum for the university," YSU President Jim Tressel said. "But as important as that progress has been, it only sets the stage for much more to come. We see a tomorrow filled with tremendous potential."

Funding is set to go toward a Student Success Center, the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center, scholarships, work opportunities, endowed chairs, campus beautification and more, YSU said

Civics Lessons: iCivics Ohio announced that an updated, interactive game to teach students about local government is available on iCivics.org.

The free Counties Work game allows students to play county officials who respond to citizen requests and aim to keep them happy while managing resources responsibility, iCivics Ohio said.

The game builds on the web-based interactive citizenship curriculum that launched in May 2015 through an iCivics partnership with the Capitol Square Foundation and the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. More than 76,000 visitors have used the website.

"The Capitol Square Foundation continues to be committed to providing a state-of-the-art educational experience to Ohio students. We are especially pleased to highlight tools and lesson plans that showcase the vital role local government plays in our everyday life," said Charles R. Moses, Chairman of the Capitol Square Foundation.

Supreme Court Dismisses Consumer Group's Complaint In Duke Energy Case; Dynegy Merger Announced

The Supreme Court of Ohio has dismissed a complaint from consumer groups tied to a Public Utilities Commission case centered on Duke Energy's disconnection procedures.

Consumer advocates - including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and Communities United for Action - earlier this month asked the court to force the PUCO to rule in the long-running case. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 6, 2017)

Commissioners responded in a recent court filing asking the court to dismiss the complaint in part because the PUCO ruled in the matter shortly after the initial complaint was filed. In its ruling, the commission rejected the OCC's prior 2015 complaint accusing Duke of improperly disconnecting customers' services. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 12, 2017)

In light of the new ruling, the OCC and CUA said that although they believe the PUCO's order "is not a satisfactory outcome for consumers" they acknowledge the commission has acted in the case and the court case should therefore be dismissed.

In its prior filing, the PUCO's counsel labeled the complaint's points "moot and legally incorrect." First, it argued, that although the Supreme Court can force a lower court to rule in a case, the complainants are mistaken in believing the court can make the lower court rule a certain way.

"Relators try to create some sort of alternative fact-finding process engineered by the court through this extraordinary writ," their response reads. "This is legally incorrect."

Secondly, the PUCO contends the groups have had adequate remedy through prior the appeals process. Lastly, the PUCO points out that, in addition to the recent ruling, the commission is searching for a third-party to conduct an audit of Duke's practices to ensure legal compliance.

"Relators and others with an interest will enjoy ample opportunity to participate in the proceeding," the PUCO's filing reads. "In this way, a thorough, complete and objective assessment can be made based upon facts. If there is a problem, the commission will find it."

Dynegy: Retail electric supplier Dynegy will be purchased by Texas-based Vistra Energy, the companies announced Monday.

The \$1.74 billion merger was expected after word of negotiations broke earlier this month in the national media.

As part of the tax-free, all-stock transition, Dynegy shareholders will receive 0.652 shares of Vistra common stock for each share of Dynegy they own, translating into about \$13.24 per Dynegy share.

"Our combination with Vistra Energy accelerates Dynegy's strategic initiatives of strengthening our balance sheet while creating the preeminent integrated power company," Dynegy CEO Bob Flexon said in a statement. "Vistra Energy's strength in retail combined with Dynegy's infrastructure and generation capabilities will provide an unmatched, highly efficient integrated business in key competitive markets."

Vistra Energy CEO Curt Morgan called the transaction a "transformative opportunity."

"The resulting combined enterprise is projected to have the lowest-cost structure in the industry and will benefit from weather and market diversification that, when combined with Vistra Energy's balance sheet strength, will provide a platform for future growth," he said. "The result will be a leading integrated power company with significant scale in the key U.S. competitive markets."

Report Examines Poverty, Assistance Programs In Ohio; Study Rates State Low On Opportunity For Black Children...

Poverty in Ohio remains higher than it was before the recent recession, despite economic gains and new programs, according to a report released Monday by the Coalition on Human Needs and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks.

The report examined the state's poverty rates among different groups and compared data from 2016 to 2007. The overall rate in 2016 was 14.6%, still above the 13.1% it was nine years earlier.

Among seniors, the rate was about the same, but increases were noted among children (20.6% in 2016 compared to 18.5% in 2007) and people with disabilities (23.1% in 2016 versus 22.2% in 2007).

"Ohio is making modest progress in reducing poverty, but we can and must do better," Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, said in a statement. "With job growth continuing and with strong federal and state programs for low-income Ohioans, we are in an excellent position to reduce poverty more substantially. There are 1.6 million Ohioans living in poverty who are counting on us to succeed. Now is the time to invest in these programs and build on the positive momentum - rather than reduce funding."

The study found poverty rates among black Ohioans (31%) and Latinos (24.9%) have remained stagnant.

The report recommended more funding for programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid and housing subsidies; no tax cuts for the wealthy; expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit; and rejecting time limits and work requirements for public benefit programs.

CHN Executive Director Deborah Weinstein said housing assistance, SNAP and Medicaid have helped Ohioans move out of poverty.

But now these very programs are on the chopping block," she said. "Budget proposals pending in Congress and backed by Congressional leadership as well as the White House would cut billions of dollars from these very programs. Such cuts would cause millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Ohioans to suffer in poverty and near poverty."

Child Well-Being: A report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found Ohio ranked 42nd in the nation out of 44 states with enough data to analyze in terms of opportunities for African-American children to succeed. The study used education, health and economic data to estimate the chances for well-being among children in different immigrant and ethnic groups.

For African-American children, Ohio was tied with Louisiana for 42nd, followed only by Michigan among states whose data were examined. The state ranked 11th in the index scores for Asian and Pacific Islander children, 23rd for Latino children, and 31st for white children.

Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said the report showed much lower levels of opportunity for children of color.

"Sadly, this report reflects what many of us already know: children of color, especially African-American children, have to face barriers that prevent them from opportunities that others are guaranteed," she said in a statement. "It is both saddening and alarming to see that Ohio is especially horrific at providing conditions for black and brown people to live a decent life. I hope this new information inspires my colleagues on both sides to embrace policies that put family first like paid family leave, equal pay and pre-k for all."

CHIP Funding: Groups continued to urge Congress to reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which Ohio could run out of money for by the end of the year.

Congress did not reauthorize the program by its Sept. 30 deadline and lawmakers in Washington continue to work on potential solutions.

Brandi Slaughter, CEO of Voices for Ohio's Children, said inaction on the issue could have serious effects on the roughly 224,000 children in the state who rely on the program.

"There is serious concern that failing to act quickly on CHIP would harm children and families and leave Ohio with holes in our budget and our health care safety net," Ms. Slaughter said. "It is imperative the entire Ohio Congressional Delegation act quickly and decisively on behalf of Ohio's children and families. There is too much at stake to play politics with the future of Ohio's children."

Politics Notebook: Speaker Rosenberger Decides Against Auditor Run; Female Policymakers Talk Women in Government at OSU Event...

One week after raising eyebrows by announcing he was considering a run for state auditor next year, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said Monday he would not enter the race.

"I intend to devote my remaining 14 months as Speaker of the Ohio House to continuing to work with our members to promote policies that serve the most pressing needs for the people of Ohio," he said in a statement. "On the political side, my focus will be on helping House candidates during the upcoming election year in order to secure and maintain our strong majority in the Ohio House."

The announcement leaves only Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) currently in the running for the GOP nomination for the office.

OSU Leadership Forum: A diverse panel of female policymakers on Friday discussed the significant need for female decision makers in the state.

Speaking at the John Glenn Leadership Forum at Ohio State University, former House Speaker Jo Ann Davidson said, "I was tired of being the only woman in the room," when she left the General Assembly.

"When you are the only one in the room you can't give up," Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson added.

The mayor told the audience to "always be authentic to who you are," after discussing her experience as the first female mayor after a long line of men.

Rep. Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) said all of the panelists have experienced the burdens and barriers unique to females, but said they also recognize their assets for decision-making.

Ramona Reyes of the Columbus City School Board said she often encounters both women and men who do not feel they have a voice.

Recent surveys show that women and girls are not confident in using their voice, Rep. Hagan added. The lawmaker urged the audience to teach the next generation of women to feel empowered to use their voice.

"Moving forward, we have to open the door a little wider so the next generation can come behind us," Mayor Hudson-Hicks said.

Female participation in Ohio politics has been static since the 1940s, the former speaker said.

Candidates are difficult to recruit because women generally wait to be asked, lack confidence and are not risk-takers, she added.

"Sometimes the greatest barrier to entry is our own internal voice," Rep. Hagan said after sharing a time in her career when she assumed she was not capable of learning while "on the job."

The lawmaker said she learned that she needed to take risks because her male colleagues do.

Ms. Reyes said her greatest barrier when running for office was that she did not know anyone who had done so to ask for advice. Having a mentor is very important when running for and holding public office, she said.

Many people think women are only interested in 'women's issues,' the former speaker said, pointing out that women are often financial decision makers within their households.

Ms. Davidson said that when she first ran for office 40 years ago she was asked why she was not at home with her children. "Female candidates still get this question today," she said.

"You have to keep going and know that you are making a difference," Ms. Davidson said.

Issue 1: Supporters of the constitutional amendment on victims' rights announced Monday that their latest television ad would feature former "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer.

The ad describes Mr. Grammer's experiences as a family member of crime victims. His father was killed in his home at age 38, and his sister was brutally raped and murdered while only a teenager, according to the campaign.

"My father's killer was released and allowed to live out his days in freedom, we were never told," Mr. Grammer says in the 30-second ad. "I had to find out through the National Enquirer. It seemed like a cruel joke."

"Marsy's Law for Ohio ensures equal rights for victims and their families to be informed and heard before criminals can be paroled. I urge you to support Marsy's Law."

The campaign said the spot was part of a "significant broadcast and cable television buy" that would air through the final days of the campaign.

Congress Race: End Citizens United recently announced the backing of Ken Harbaugh, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview) in the 7th Ohio Congressional District.

"The grassroots reform group is backing challengers who have pledged to take on the rigged system in Washington, where politicians are beholden to Big Money special interests," a release from Mr. Harbaugh's campaign stated.

"It's no secret that Congress is littered with politicians who are in the pockets of their Big Money backers. It's time to throw them out," ECU President Tiffany Muller said. "Each of these candidates has vowed to curb the corrupting influence that money has over our politics and fight to enact meaningful reform that will upend this system."

Mr. Harbaugh said he was honored to have the group's endorsement. "The voices of voters should always be heard above the clang of Big Money," he said.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board: Dr. Joanne Phillips Estes of Cincinnati for a term beginning October 30, 2017, and ending August 27, 2019 and Melissa Van Allen of Columbus and Dr. Trevor M. Bates of Sylvania for terms beginning October 30, 2017, and ending August 27, 2020.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, November 29

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, 4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 350, Westerville, 10 a.m. (The Finance Committee meets at 9 a.m.)

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, November 1

Ohioans for Payday Lending Reform rally, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, October 31

Legislative Committees

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

- HB 337** **COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS** (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 351** **MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION** (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 343** **PROPERTY VALUES** (Merrin, D.) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 371** **PROPERTY TAX** (Merrin, D.) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Dever, J., 466-8120), Rm. 114, 10 a.m.

- Presentation from Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- SB 163** **COUNTY INVESTMENTS** (Wilson, S.) To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for investment of county inactive moneys. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 329** **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 353** **UNCLAIMED FUNDS** (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

- HB 156** **VISION CARE INSURANCE** (Schuring, K.) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 284** **AUTO INSURANCE** (Antani, N.) To create a study committee to author a report making recommendations about ways to reduce the cost of insurance premiums among commercial drivers ages eighteen to twenty-five. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 11 a.m.

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.

HB 263 **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS** (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (4th Hearing-Interested Party)

HB 211 **HOME INSPECTORS** (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711**), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB 338 **SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS** (Ginter, T.) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 318 **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 360 **BULLYING** (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (**Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624**), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.

- **Presentation from PUCO Chairman Asim Haque on Ohio's electric regulatory framework**

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

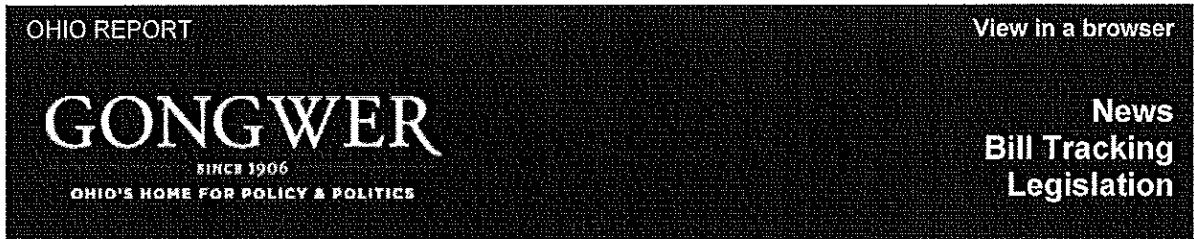
Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

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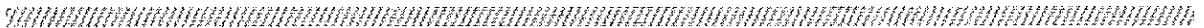
Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:15 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 27, 2018
Attachments: Jun27Senate.htm; 180627dayplan.htm; Jun27.htm; Jun27House.htm



OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27



Lake Erie, Voting Machine Funding Among Bills Headed To Governor

Bills On Religion, Pharmacy Benefit Managers Among Dozens Backed By House

Senate Passes Measures Focused On Reducing Regulations

Bills Amended To Enhance Online School Oversight Head To Governor

Senate Panel Delays Vote On Energy Standards, Wind Setback Bill

Proposed Regulations Inspired By State Fair Ride Death Get Initial Hearing

High Court Strikes Down 'Agency Fees' For Public Sector Unions; Kennedy Announces Retirement

Chairman: Senate Looking For Balance With Payday Lending Measure

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House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 27, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 313 

COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH (Schiavoni, J.) To establish the College Application Month program. Am. 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24 and to enact sections 3313.6024 and 3333.301.

SB 314 

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (Schiavoni, J.) With regard to mental health services in public and nonpublic schools, to require school districts to employ school psychologists and intervention specialists, to provide an additional state payment to school districts for school psychologist and intervention specialist services, and to make an appropriation. Am. sections 3314.03 and 3326.11 and to enact sections 3301.0730, 3317.26, 3319.077, and 3319.078 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 265.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly and Section 265.210 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, as subsequently amended.


PASSED

HB 18 

SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.) to eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances; to authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers, to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices; and to require that, upon request, county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees must share lodging tax return information with the directors of convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.

(32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE))

Gongwer Coverage

HB 87 

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of the enrollment records of a community school, to clarify the time period within which a school district emergency levy or substitute levy may be renewed or replaced, to clarify the responsibilities of a school district treasurer regarding the signing or executing of certain documents, to require the State Board of

Education to adopt standards for learning management software for internet- and computer-based community schools, regarding qualification for state payments by internet- or computer-based community schools, regarding joint health and medical insurance programs by political subdivisions and county boards of developmental disabilities, regarding submission of five-year financial forecasts by public schools, and regarding the moratorium on certain provisions affecting community schools and school districts whose enrollments were affected due to enrolling students of a suspended e-school. 32-0 (Schiavoni & Skindell) Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED

Gongwer Coverage

HB 95 ■

DISTRACTED DRIVING (Hughes, J., Seitz, B.) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import.

31-1 (Jordan)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 168 ■

CEMETERY REGISTRATION (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 263 ■

OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 312 ■

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) To regulate the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, to modify the duties and powers of the Auditor of State, to specify that electronic submission of a public record request entitles the requestor to damages if the public office fails to comply with the Public Records Act, to make changes to

the law governing financial planning and supervision commissions, and to authorize a property tax abatement for certain property subject to a submerged land lease and held by a municipal corporation.

32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 336 ■ **LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.)** To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 347 ■ **ROAD NAMING (Kelly, B., Dever, J.)** To designate multiple memorial highways.

32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 119 ■ **OPIOID MEDICATIONS (Hackett, B., Hottinger, J.)** Regarding naltrexone and medication-assisted treatment.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 229 ■ **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Eklund, J.)** To modify the laws pertaining to regulation of controlled substances and to make other changes in the laws administered by the State Board of Pharmacy.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 255 ■ **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (McColley, R.)** To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

24-8 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 273 ■ **RATING AGENCIES** (Hackett, B.) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency."

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 293 ■ **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS** (Peterson, B., McColley, R.) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.

23-9 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SCR 21 ■ **APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB** (Balderson, T.) To urge the Congress of the United States to enact various bills advancing the development of an Appalachian storage hub.

31-1 (Skindell)

Gongwer Coverage

SCR 23 ■ **FEDERALISM** (Obhof, L., Peterson, B.) To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout the Constitution of the United States of America and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment be prohibited or repealed.

25-7

Gongwer Coverage

INFORMALLY PASSED

SB 86 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hackett, B.) To designate multiple memorial highways and bridges, to create multiple nonstandard license plates, to create multiple special designations, and to designate John Glenn's childhood home as a state historic site.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 66 ■ **CRIMINAL LAWS** (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including the promotion of effective rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility

criteria and procedures for granting pre-trial diversion and intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation; to extend the State Highway Patrol's authority to enforce criminal laws to also apply to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center; to modify the penalty for an employer's failure to remit state income taxes withheld from an employee; and to authorize the conveyance of state-owned real estate.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 127 ■ **WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.)** To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 135 ■ **VOTING EQUIPMENT (LaRose, F.)** To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.

31-1 (Jordan)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 216 ■ **SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.)** To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs, to add the territory of Summit County to the Stark State College District, and to prescribe procedures for appointing the board of trustees of the combined technical college district.


28-1 (Brown)


Gongwer Coverage


SB 220 ■ **CYBERSECURITY (Hackett, B., Bacon, K.)** To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program, to allow transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and to alter the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law.

29-0


Gongwer Coverage

SB 221  **AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.
23-6
Gongwer Coverage

SB 239  **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.)** To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."
29-0
Gongwer Coverage

SB 299  **WATER IMPROVEMENTS (Gardner, R., O'Brien, S.)** To credit additional amounts of the Local Government Fund to fund public safety services in areas that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of certain power plants between 2016 and 2017, to phase out the payments over ten years, to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund; to support broadband development; to establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project; and to make appropriations, including appropriations for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie and the National Guard Scholarship Program.
29-0
Gongwer Coverage

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

SB 1  **DRUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.)** To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, except for drug possession violations when the fentanyl-related compound is combined with marihuana or a Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance and the offender did not know of the fentanyl content; to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of

permitting drug abuse; and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances.

31-1 (Skindell)

Gongwer Coverage

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Energy & Natural Resources

HB 114 **RENEWABLE ENERGY (Blessing, L.)** To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program. (SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD (See separate story); 8th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 51 **LAKE ERIE (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)** To authorize the creation of a special improvement district to facilitate Lake Erie shoreline improvement. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Before reporting the measure, the committee adopted an amendment from **Sen. Michael Skindell** (D-Lakewood). The senator said his fellow lead cosponsor, **Sen. John Eklund** (R-Chardon), has also signed off on the change, which ensures that if state property lies within the district, the required assessment will not be forced upon the state.

Government Oversight & Reform

HB 18 **SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.)** To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

A substitute version offered by chairman **Sen. Bill Coley** (R-Liberty Twp.) rolls another measure (**SB 252**) into the bill that allows local elected officials to serve on the board of a convention and visitors' bureau.

In written proponent testimony, **Secretary of State Jon Husted** said the original measure will save taxpayer dollars. He noted that a special congressional election in 2016 with just one candidate costed \$340,000.

HB 312 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.)** Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

A substitute version of the bill offered by **Sen. Matt Huffman** (R-Lima) largely cleans up language in the bill and also continues a property tax abatement for the City of Lorain, Sen. Coley explained.

HB 34 **PUBLIC NOTICES** (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Sen. Huffman offered an amendment accepted without objection to remove some sections pertaining to when electronic notices would not be allowed and to allow a recently elected public official to take public records training prior to taking office.

Another change allows a county prosecutor's office to represent port authorities, planning commissions and regional airport, Sen. Coley explained.

SB 202 **OFFENDER RE-ENTRY** (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 3rd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 255 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING** (McColley, R.) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

A substitute version of the bill offered by **Sen. Joe Uecker** (R-Loveland) makes several changes, including adding factors to the list used in determining whether an occupational licensing board has demonstrated a public need. (**Comp doc**)

It also provides that occupational regulations that are created by adopting national standards used in at least 45 states are deemed to be narrowly tailored and the least restrictive.

In written opponent testimony, Jarrod Clabaugh, executive director of the Ohio Society of Association Executives, called for lawmakers to seek additional input on the bill.

John Graham, president and CEO of the Center for Association Leadership, called for the creation of a task force.

"We suggest that instead the legislature establish a task force to consider the problem of excessive occupational licensing and to develop ways to address that problem without weakening the protections to the public offered by governmental recognition of private certification programs," he wrote.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under June 26.

Finance

HB 123 **LENDING LAWS** (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

HB 347 **ROAD NAMING** (Kelly, B., Dever, J.) To designate a portion of I-71 in Hamilton County as the "Sonny L. Kim Memorial Highway." (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Chairman Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said the substitute version allows the legislation for to be used as a vehicle for the naming of multiple memorial stretches of highway honoring people killed in the line of duty.

SB 293 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS** (Peterson, B., McColley, R.) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The committee accepted a substitute offered by Sen. Rob McColley, (R-Napoleon), who said the updated measure would apply the mandate to cut regulations by 30% statewide "at more of a macro level than the micro level."

Sen. McColley said his version would require every head of a cabinet-level department and every statewide elected official to inventory all regulations associated with their departments, as well as the commissions or agencies under them, and apply the 30% reduction "in the aggregate." He said the change was needed because some individual agencies or commissions might not have room to cut the percentage of regulations required by the original legislation.

"There are many state agencies that are already running pretty lean and already have very few rules," he said.

The substitute version also would give the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review the authority to approve or deny the cuts, he said.

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said he agrees with the goal but has concerns the legislature may be ceding too much authority under the proposal.

"We're asking (agencies) to get rid of regulations that are contrary to legislative intent," he said. "I would rather be the one to dictate what legislative intent is."

Sen. McColley said he thinks the substitute bill "actually strengthened the authority of JCARR," and therefore, the legislature.

The panel reported the bill along party lines after accepting the substitute version.

Before accepting Sen. McColley's changes, the committee tabled a substitute bill offered by **Sen. Charleta B. Tavares** (D-Columbus) that she said would remove the requirement that regulations be cut by 30% across the board in the state. Her version instead would have instead required state agencies to cut regulatory restrictions until a reduction "deemed sufficient by the state agency in consultation with (JCARR) has been achieved," she said. She said the substitute version also would have prohibited agencies from removing regulations required by federal law, among other changes.

"What we're trying to do is enlist both JCARR and the agencies in identifying those regulations or statutes that should be removed ... so that we can make informed decisions," she said.

Ahead of the adoption of the substitute legislation, Greg Lawson, research fellow with the Buckeye Institute, said the state "desperately needs" the effort to cut unneeded regulations to boost the economy. He said the state's licensing requirements are more restrictive than most states.

"Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways," he said. "But the same cannot be said with respect to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers-all currently subject to Ohio's byzantine and overly restrictive licensing requirements."

Mr. Lawson said efforts to rein in regulations could lead to employers hiring more workers and employees earning more.

"Beyond occupational licensing reform, Ohio must also reexamine government mandates that interfere with market-pricing and make goods artificially more expensive for businesses," he said. "Such interference ultimately leads to slower job growth as businesses curtail hiring and wages in order to offset the artificially higher costs created by the mandates."

SB 308 **ELEVATOR LAW (Uecker, J., Yuko, K.)** To revise the Elevator Law.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) said in sponsor testimony the measure, which has companion legislation (**HB 236**) in the House, would "modernize" the state's elevator laws. "Taking elevators is a regular occurrence in our day to day lives and malfunctions can cause serious injuries to riders. SB308 seeks to codify industry standards and set licensure qualifications to help ensure the safety of both elevator riders and workers," he said. He said the measure would update the state's definition for elevators and create an Elevator Safety Review Board, among other changes.

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.), the measure's other primary sponsor, said the bill also establishes new licensing and insurance requirements for elevator contractors, inspectors and mechanics.

"Our goal is to ensure the safety for the public and for those who work and install elevators. The best way for us to ensure a high level of safety is to ensure that all elevators are installed and maintained by licensed professionals."

HCR 10 ■ **ANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.)** To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. (**REPORTED-AMENDED**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Chairman LaRose amended the bill with language condemning white nationalists and other hate groups.

Sen. Tavares offered a substitute resolution, which would have condemned attacks and discrimination against all minority groups by hate groups including white nationalists and neo-Nazis, and remove references to the boycott movement.

"We can't say people can't talk," she said. "That goes against who we are as a nation and a state."

The panel tabled her proposal, and Sen. Tavares subsequently cast the lone vote against reporting the measure.

Prior to the report, Connie Hammond, a member of United Methodists for Kairos Response and the Free Speech Coalition of Ohio, said the legislation unfairly conflates the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement with anti-Semitism and could be seen as a form of censorship.

"The International BDS movement is not anti-Semitic," she said. "The call to BDS issued by 170 Palestinian civil society organizations asked the international community to stand for freedom, equality and justice."

Sen. LaRose said he rejects the idea that the measure constituted any kind of censorship.

"There's nothing in here that restricts speech," he said.

Education

HB 87 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 34 ■ **ACADEMIC YEAR (Manning, G.)** To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day. (**Scheduled but not heard**); 7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

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